

Heseltine leads rebels against 'Tory tax'

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine last night placed himself at the head of the Conservative rebellion over the poll tax by delivering a blistering denunciation of a proposal that he said was unfair, crude, ineffective and deeply damaging to the Conservative Party.

Mr Heseltine, a former environment secretary, delighted Conservative opponents of the poll tax with a sustained attack during the two-day Commons debate on the Local Government Finance Bill in which he said that it would be known forever as the "Tory tax".

A party that argued for the coherence of the family would be bringing in a tax that encouraged young people to leave home to evade it, elderly parents to go into residential homes where they

would not have to pay it, and mothers to go out to work to help pay for it.

It would mean more tax collectors and more evasion, and more evasion would mean more resentment, and all would be built on a platform of crude regression which sought to make equal in the eyes of the tax collector the rich and the poor, the slum dweller and the landed aristocrat.

Mr Heseltine praised the Government for attempting reform, but he told Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, that his proposals "cause the most profound anxiety in this party".

It would be a tragedy if, in the name of reform, the party ended up with an even worse system than the one with which it had begun. He said he could not support the Bill.

Mr Heseltine's assault came just after the Bill, which has been hailed as the flagship of the Government's legislative programme, was launched by Mr Ridley.

Conservative MPs displayed their misgivings during his speech opening the debate as he defended

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the community charge, or poll tax, and shot down the alternatives put forward by the Labour Party and the plan backed by Conservative rebels for a banded charge based on ability to pay.

He described the banded charge, proposed by Sir George Young, the former environment minister, and backed by almost 40 Tory MPs, as the worst of all worlds. It was "fatally flawed".

However, as he moved the second reading of the Bill, Mr Ridley appeared to be received with little enthusiasm by his backbenchers, several of whom intervened to voice their concerns over the proposals, and, unusually for a centrepiece Bill, neither the Prime Minister or hardly any of her senior Cabinet colleagues were on the front-bench as Mr Ridley spoke.

As the debate got under way the Government prepared for a sizeable revolt in tonight's division. More than 30 MPs could withhold their support by voting against or, more likely, abstaining on the second reading motion, but they will not have the opportunity of voting on Sir George Young's motion instructing the standing committee to consider a banded charge. It was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

Mr Ridley told MPs that the community charge was fair, workable and, above all, accountable. He confirmed that the poorest would be protected with rebates of up to 80 per cent of their community charge, and disclosed that the rebates were expected to cost £1,500 million.

He argued that the rebel proposals were effectively a local income tax and contained a series of enterprise and employment traps that were pernicious and unique to this form of tax because of the steps between the bands. An extra £1 or £2 a year on wages could mean an extra £400 on the local tax bill.

It would be disastrous, he said, to have 400 Chancellors, one in every town hall. He said the Government had estimated that in Greater London a person with a taxable income of £10,000 a year

would have to pay on average £1,600 a year. Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said that MPs had come to launch the Government's flagship but it had sunk. He committed the Labour Party, which has still to produce details of its policy on the rates, to what he described as "a modern property tax", which would be made fair and understandable. He said the Government's proposals would bring chaos, disillusionment and cynicism in local government.

Mr Heseltine, who was the first backbencher to be called, supported the Government's determination to tackle the problems of the inner cities, but he went on: "Doing something for the inner cities cannot mean making the poor pay more for the worst services in the land."



Mr Heseltine: Poll tax inconsistent with support for the family.

£100million transfusion for the NHS

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government is to inject more than £100 million of emergency funds into the National Health Service, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Antony Newton, the Minister for Health, told MPs in a statement that the Government's monitoring arrangements had revealed a shortfall in income which could be eliminated only by short-term measures.

In response to the cash crisis which has led to bed closures and operation delays, and which has unleashed a storm of protest from doctors, administrators and specialists, he announced a series of measures designed to demonstrate the Government's concern.

There is to be an extra £90 million for UK health authorities in the current year, including £75 million for England, £7.6 million for Scotland, £3.8 million for Wales and £2.1 million for Northern Ireland. This is in addition to the extra £707 million for 1988-89 already announced in the autumn statement, on which the DHSS yesterday gave a detailed regional breakdown.

The new allocation also includes an extra £10 million to help cope with the steadily rising total of Aids cases.

Of the extra £707 million for 1988-89, £50 million is to go to Aids treatment, an additional £9 million to the breast cancer screening pro-

gramme and £5 million on specific projects to reduce waiting lists, taking the funds available for such projects to £30 million next year.

The Government is providing an extra £13.3 million to compensate health authorities, largely in the South-east, for storm damage suffered on October 16.

Mr Newton also announced allocations of more than £40 million for supra-regional services.

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vices serving wide areas. They will include a fourth heart transplant centre, to be based at Wythenshawe, Manchester.

In a clear effort to demonstrate that the Government has a heart as well as a battery of statistics, Mr Newton said heart transplant centres would receive £6.8 million between them next year, compared with £4.3 million this year.

He announced an extra £26 million for capital spending, saying that, along with a forecast £200 million from land sales, would sustain a hospital building and improvement programme in which 450 major projects were being planned, designed or constructed. The current and capital allocations provided for 40 more breast cancer screening centres by the spring of 1989.

Mr Newton said the extra funds meant an increase of 5.5 per cent in overall health spending, compared with a forecast 4.5 per cent increase in general inflation.

Conservative MPs in the Commons largely welcomed Mr Newton's statement. However, the Opposition com-

Health cuts might have put Whitelaw at risk

By Andrew Morgan

A senior consultant at Westminster Hospital said yesterday that Lord Whitelaw, who suffered a minor stroke on Monday, could have been forced to cross London for a critical brain scan as the necessary equipment had worn out and had not been replaced.

Dr Stanley Feldman, a consultant anaesthetist, said the scanner broke down irretrievably two months ago and had not been replaced. He added that Lord Whitelaw would have been taken across London in an ambulance to Charing Cross Hospital for the vital tests.

Dr Feldman criticized the

planned that it was too little, too late.

Mr Robin Cook, Opposition spokesman on health, said the extra money would be welcome in the way that a straw would be welcome to a drowning man. He said it had taken the Government's monitoring bodies nine months to notice something that everyone else in the country had noticed months ago.

He said 3,500 beds had been closed, 10,000 operations postponed and claimed that 24 babies had died as a result of the Government's delay in providing more funds.

Health service managers said the extra cash was little more than an emergency "elastoplast", which would do nothing to prevent further bed closures.

The Institute of Health Services Management said that if health authorities started opening wards now, they would have to close them again in April.

The King's Fund Institute accused the Government of "abdicating its strategic responsibility" by offering short-term "elastoplast" measures while failing to undertake any long-term review of alternative funding.

"Even if we have the money today, we will not be able to re-open wards till the end of January", Miss Barbara Young, the institute's president, said.

"It is worth opening wards, only to have to shut them again two months later? The decision not to make the amount recurrent snacks of crass stupidity."

The National Association of Health Authorities said the extra £75 million for England

Continued on page 24, col 7

Cleveland abuse inquiry hears final witness



Poised and smiling, Dr Marietta Higgs (right) leaving the Cleveland inquiry with Dr Geoffrey Wyatt and a legal aide.

Child doctors to be kept off hospital duties

By Peter Davenport

Doctor Marietta Higgs and her colleague Dr Geoffrey Wyatt will not return to their hospital duties even though their central role in the Cleveland child sex abuse inquiry came to an end yesterday.

Their employers, the Northern Regional Health Authority, said that the two consultant paediatricians would remain off clinical duties. The two doctors have effectively been on leave of absence since August to prepare their evidence for the inquiry which heard its final witness yesterday, the 71st day.

There has been much speculation about the future of the consultants following criticism of their actions during the crisis.

Yesterday's statement said they had recently met the regional general manager and regional medical officer for discussions. "It has been agreed with the two consultants that they will remain off clinical duties until the inquiry finishes sitting at the end of January. Discussions on the arrangements after this have still to be concluded."

The two doctors still face the prospect of legal action, for lawyers representing some of the families in the affair say they will issue writs against the consultants, the regional health authority and Cleveland's social services seeking damages.

The inquiry resumes late in January for closing speeches by counsel before the chairman, the newly appointed Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, re-

ports to the Minister of State for Health, Mr Tony Newton.

As well as detailing the causes of the crisis in Cleveland, the report is expected to provide guidelines for handling future child sexual abuse cases.

The inquiry, which heard 137 witnesses, is believed to have cost up to £5 million. Expected to last six weeks, it went on for five months.

Yesterday's final witness was Mr Stuart Bell, the Middlesbrough Labour MP who championed the parents caught up in the crisis. He persisted with his criticism of the doctors and social ser-

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vices, alleging that they had conspired against his constituents.

Drs Higgs and Wyatt diagnosed between them 121 cases of alleged child sexual abuse using a controversial technique earlier this year. Children were taken away from their homes leading to an outcry with many of the parents claiming the diagnoses were incorrect.

More than 80 of the children are now back at home and the inquiry was told yesterday that 38 of the cases had resulted in conviction, admission or charge.

Before adjourning yesterday the judge said that the time, trouble and expense of the inquiry had not been out of proportion. "I only hope, and may I say pray, that it will be worthwhile."

Cambridge chosen as technology centre

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

A National Superconductivity Research Centre is to be established at Cambridge University to spearhead efforts to exploit superconducting ceramics.

The centre will be the first University Research Centre (URC), devoted to excellence in research in a specific area, of the kind advocated this year by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

The Cambridge centre, at the Cavendish laboratory, will receive about £900,000 a year for the next six years from the Science and Engineering Research Council.

The funds were raised by a favourable exchange rate affecting subscriptions to the council's international collaborations, and by using existing reserves.

The council said that the choice of Cambridge from a shortlist including Birmingham, Warwick and Liverpool universities "reflects the quality and experience of a multi-disciplinary team of world-class scientists with a proven track record of research in superconducting materials".

The university's department of material science is leading the world in the development of thin film technology, where layers of superconducting ceramic are built up into electronic components. Professor Brian Josephson, of the Cavendish laboratory, won a Nobel prize for his work on the so-called Josephson junction, a superconducting device seen as a key to the next generation of electronics.

The council said that about £1 million had been made available for about 10 superconductivity research projects at other universities.

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Budget boost

The Government is on course for the first "budget surplus" since the late 1960s, allowing the Chancellor to announce substantial cuts in income tax in his March Budget. Page 25

Late revival

A partnership of 114 by Embury and Capel enabled England to reach 222 for seven on the first day of the third Test match against Pakistan in Karachi. Page 42

Portfolio Gold

● The £12,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition — treble the usual amount because there were no winners for two days — was shared by three readers. Details page 3
● Portfolio list, page 31.

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Roh on course for Korea poll victory

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Mr Roh Tae Woo, of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, appeared to be moving towards a remarkably convincing win early today in South Korea's first direct presidential election for 16 years.

With more than 40 per cent of the votes counted from a broad cross-section of the country, he had a substantial lead over both of his main opposition challengers, Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung. Mr Roh, a former army general and the chosen successor of President Chun, was given a 39.8 per cent share, against 25.8 per cent for Mr Kim Young Sam and 23.5 per cent for Mr Kim Dae Jung.

The early results confounded predictions that there would be a close contest between the three, and made it clear that the opposition had paid dearly for the rivalry between its two principal leaders. With an 89.1 per cent

turnout, the 25.9-million electorate showed a preference for the more controlled approach to democratic reforms pledged by the Government candidate.

The National Council for Democracy, a powerful organization of dissident groups, alleged dozens of cases of bribery, intimidation and electoral fraud during the voting and counting, but a Government spokesman said that the claims were unsubstantiated, and similar past charges were not supported by the evidence.

Riot police, firing tear gas, last night broke up a demonstration by Mr Kim Dae Jung's supporters in Kwangju, his power base in the southern province of Cholla.

If Mr Roh's victory is confirmed, it is expected to trigger unruly demonstrations by students and other dissident groups.

Athletics inquiry into drugs

By John Goodbody

An inquiry by a QC is to be set up into allegations made in *The Times* about malpractice in drug-testing at international athletics meetings.

It has been established because the sport has been brought into disrepute.

Mr Tony Ward, the spokesman for the British Amateur Athletic Board and the Amateur Athletic Association, said yesterday: "Accusations have been made against three prominent officials."

He said the allegations, against Mr Robert Simson, treasurer of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Mr Andy Norman, the board's promotions officer and Mr Les Jones, the secretary of the Northern Ireland AAA, all of whom have denied the accusations, would be the subject of legal action.

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Arts purchase grants 'pegged' for three years

By Lynda Mardin
and Robin Oakley

Purchase grants for national art institutions are to remain at their present levels for the next three years, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said last night in announcing an overall increase of 15.9 per cent in funding for museums and galleries.

Earlier the committee which reports to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the export of works of art urged him to make more money available to stop the flood of art works abroad.

Although the increase announced by Mr Luce is higher than indicated in his November budget plans, priority is to go to building and maintenance; the "standstill funding" means money for making acquisitions is cut in real terms.

In a written parliamentary reply Mr Luce said the provision for museums and galleries will be £157 million from April, £160 million in 1989/90, and £164 million in 1990/91.

Mr Luce said the figures show the National Gallery's grant rising from £11.47 million in 1988/89 to

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£11.85 million in 1990/91, including its purchase grant, static at £2.75 million.

The British Museum's grant drops from £24.64 million to £23.99 million because of a reduction in its building programme money after the first year. Its purchase grant is £1.4 million.

The Tate Gallery gets £10.89 million in April, rising to £11.48 million

(purchase grant £1.8 million); the National Portrait Gallery £5.32 million, dropping to £3.88 million (purchase grant, £310,000) and the Victoria and Albert Museum £21.52 million, dropping to £20.26 million (purchase grant, £1.14 million).

The review committee on the export of works of art had warned the Government that unless it changes the law, important works of art in British collections will flood abroad, impoverishing the national heritage.

It said it was filled with dismay at the way the Government is interpreting the rules on export licences and it urged the Chancellor to make more money available to buy threatened art works and keep them in Britain.

The committee said in its annual

report that the Treasury's special purchase grant had not kept pace with international sale prices.

Given the way the Government was now interpreting the rules, any would-be British exporter of an important work of art could refuse to sell it when a British national collection raises the money to pay for it. The seller could then re-apply for an export licence at any time.

The committee recommends that legislation should be promoted urgently enabling an export licence to be refused in such circumstances for up to 10 years.

Export of Works of Art. Thirty-third report of the Review Committee appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in December 1982. (Cmd 274. Stationery Office, £6.80).

Can you enjoy your Christmas knowing what his will be like?



This picture was taken recently in England. It was not set up or reconstructed. We simply asked our photographer to record what he found in the cities of our country.

Peter is two years old. He's just one of almost 2 million children living in appalling deprivation in Britain today. Living in conditions that create family tensions, domestic violence and worse.

Christmas Day won't be very much different. Every year The Children's Society helps thousands of such children. For every child we help, however, there are many we can't.

This Christmas you could help us to help even more children next year.

Please send your donation to: Church of England Children's Society, Freepost, London WC1X 0BR.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount £ _____

We're grateful for your donation, but to save us money we will not send a receipt unless you tick this box.

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The Children's Society.

Needed now more than ever.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Awards for ferry crew families

Families of 22 members of the crew of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* who died when the ferry capsized at Zeebrugge in March are to receive compensation payments of up to £150,000 by Christmas, under settlements approved in the High Court yesterday.

It is believed that payments will total more than £2 million. Most claims for passengers who died have still to be settled, but it is thought that total insurance claims covering not only passengers and crew, but also cargo and other items, could reach £10 million to £15 million.

On average, families of the crew are likely to receive more than families of passengers because the overall sum paid will be heavily influenced by the dead person's life expectancy and earnings.

Crisp plea Libel win fails

A supermarket worker dismissed for eating a crisp has lost an appeal to his employers for reinstatement. Eddie Shaw, aged 21, was suspended and then dismissed by Tesco Stores, of Allerton, Liverpool, after he was seen dipping into a crisp bag that had burst open while he was stacking shelves.

Mr Shaw, of Willowdale Road, Allerton, said: "I am proud of my record. I have never had a written or verbal warning and yet I have been dismissed for eating one lousy crisp". He intends to take his case to an industrial tribunal.

Libel win for Tebbit

Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, accepted libel damages of about £2,000 with costs from the BBC and Mr Geoffrey Robinson, Labour MP for Coventry, North-west, yesterday.

Mr Andrew Stephenson, for Mr Tebbit, told Mr Justice Mansfield that during a live broadcast of *Any Questions* on Radio 4 last February, Mr Robinson had repeated an allegation made originally in *The Guardian* which wrongly claimed Mr Tebbit had made the statement: "Nobody with a conscience votes Conservative".

Unionists meet King

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will meet Unionist leaders today in a fresh attempt to break the political deadlock in Ulster.

It will be the sixth and most important in a series of meetings between Mr King and Mr James Moynihan, of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, which began last July.

The Unionist leaders want the Government to suspend the Anglo-Irish agreement to enable substantive talks on future political structures for Ulster.

Mr King has said the agreement is non-negotiable.

Political fund vote Aids film warning

The Society of Civil and Public Servants yesterday announced that its middle-grade officials had voted for the first time in favour of establishing a political fund.

The vote was 18,879 in favour with 4,307 against, a majority of 81 per cent from a turnout of 26.05 per cent, in a move that was immediately criticized by the Treasury.

Ministers fear that the establishment of such a fund could lead to political affiliation that they claim would run "counter to the need for political neutrality" in the Civil Service.

Scargill pit to close

In spite of an attempt by Mr Arthur Scargill to save the pit in which he once worked, miners at Woolley colliery, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, yesterday voted overwhelmingly to accept its closure.

British Coal had told them the pit, and the adjoining Redbrook colliery, which have lost between them £90 million over four years, could not be sustained for technical or financial reasons.

The Woolley miners, who will be offered employment at other pits, took their decision partly to benefit from the additional £5,000 in redundancy payments which are on offer until March. The 400 Redbrook miners vote on the issue on Saturday.

Law lords reject plea by Tamils

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent
An last-minute appeal is expected to be lodged with Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, over six Sri Lankan Tamils who could be ordered home after losing a test appeal in the House of Lords yesterday.

Five law lords, in a ruling which will determine the fate of hundreds of other Sri Lankan Tamils, unanimously allowed an appeal by Mr Hurd, who refused applications for asylum last August and September.

However, lawyers for the men said yesterday that because circumstances in Sri Lanka had deteriorated since Mr Hurd's decision, there was a good case for a review.

The Court of Appeal ruled last October that the Home Secretary had misinterpreted the test to be applied and ordered him to reconsider.

The new law lords' ruling defines a new binding test to be applied to asylum seekers, in which they would have to demonstrate there was a reasonable degree of likelihood they would be persecuted. Lawyers said it may make it easier for those in a similar position.

An application has been made on behalf of the Tamils to the European Commission of Human Rights asking the Home Secretary not to deport pending consideration of an appeal to the Commission.

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Work vote by TV-am journalists

By Frances Evans
Media Editor
Journalists at strike-hit TV-am voted overwhelmingly last night to continue working normally at the Camden Lock studios after being addressed by the station chief.

The NUJ chapter voted 68 to 13 against taking industrial action and said afterwards: "The overwhelming view is that people don't see it as being our dispute. I don't think they are yet prepared to lay themselves on the line."

The large majority against joining TV-am's 229 striking television technicians on the picket line will bolster Mr Bruce Gyngel, TV-am's managing director, who warned ACTT strikers yesterday they would not be allowed back until they agreed to the scrapping of costly restrictive labour practices.

ACTT members have rejected a 10-point plan submitted by management to Acat, the arbitration service, which proposes more flexible working arrangements.

Mr Gyngel said: "The matter is not negotiable. It is quite clear they are the terms and conditions on which they return to work. We are not changing them."

The Court of Appeal refused yesterday to lift an injunction granted to the Attorney General prohibiting a Channel 4 broadcast of a television re-enactment of the recent Birmingham public house bombings appeal.

BBC schedules, page 3

MPs and Lords to set up science think tank

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

MPs and peers are to have a science and technology "think tank" to improve their knowledge on the technical and scientific implications of legislation.

A Science and Technology Information Service for Parliament (Stimp), run and funded independently of the Government, is to be set up early in the new year with an office in Westminster, a director and permanent and temporary staff.

It is expected to be given the go-ahead in February at the annual meeting of the all-party parliamentary and scientific committee, which is chaired by Mr Trevor Skeet, Conservative MP for Bedfordshire North.

It is proceeding despite the obvious opposition of the Government which, according to the MPs most closely involved in the initiative, has consistently provided inadequate information to parliamentarians on key scientific and technological issues.

The Prime Minister and other senior ministers have

turned down appeals from the founders of the new organization to help with funds to set it up.

Undeterred, Mr Skeet and his two leading allies, Sir Ian Lloyd, chairman of the Commons energy committee, and Sir Gerard Vaughan, the former Conservative minister, have pressed on regardless and raised funds.

Appeals have been made to members of the committee — more than 100 MPs and about 70 peers — research organizations, universities, and industry. It is understood that a

tens of thousands of pounds has been raised.

It was estimated yesterday that the office will cost between £30,000 and £50,000 to establish.

The service will analyse, assess and inform. It will be politically neutral but it will publish reports based on its assessment of issues or situations. It is accepted that sometimes they are bound to be unwelcome to the government of the day.

The finances of the organization are to be the responsibility of a new charitable trust. Eventually it will ap-

proach the House of Commons Commission for substantial injections of funds to help its operation.

The organization will have a science and technology advisory board, to be responsible to the committee. The board will anticipate issues where it feels Parliament will need expert scientific guidance and agree annually a programme of work to be undertaken within an agreed budget.

Mr Skeet and his colleagues went to Washington to study the Office of Technology Assessment which advises Congress, and agreed that an

organization on such a scale would be impossible in Britain without government support.

Mr Skeet said yesterday: "We are moving ahead fast. We do not need to be approved by the Government because this is a do-it-yourself enterprise. When we come to technical debates in the future we will not be quite so naïve as we have been."

"We want independent advice to enable us to ask intelligent questions in the House and make sensible appraisals of technical matters put before us."

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By Robin Young

Irish treasure-hunters heard the Supreme Court in Dublin cut their reward yesterday for retrieving religious items from a Tipperary bog from £5 million to £45,000 — but said they were not deterred.

Mr Michael Webb, a businessman from Clonmel, Co Tipperary, and his

son Michael, now aged 22, discovered the gold, silver and bronze treasures while using metal detectors near the site of a fifth-century abbey on Derrynafin Island in the middle of Liffetown bog in February, 1968.

Their haul consisted of the Derrynafin Challice, a richly ornamented golden bowl two feet across,

and a paten, strainer and basin used in religious ceremonies.

They took the objects to the National Museum in Dublin but turned down a government reward offer of £9,000 as derisory. Then last December the Irish High Court ruled that the Webbs were entitled to keep the items or receive their full value,

set at £5 million, in compensation.

Yesterday the Supreme Court upheld an appeal by the state, which argued that the finds were treasure trove and belonged to the state.

Mr Webb senior said afterwards: "The £5 million I was offered was never a real sum. It was just a paper dream."

Mr Michael Webb and his son Michael after the Supreme Court ruling yesterday; and the Derrynafin Challice.

Hospital faces closure to meet cost of pay awards

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

One hospital which the Prince of Wales tried to save and two maternity units are likely to close temporarily as part of a package of health service cuts in Gloucestershire.

The package also includes a proposal to cancel routine surgery at the main district general hospital over Christmas and restrict surgery in GP hospitals. The Gloucester health authority agreed yesterday that the measures, to help save £1.3 million, should be put out to consultation for three and a half weeks so that a decision can be taken next month.

However, health service managers said yesterday that they saw little alternative to implementing the cuts.

The hospital that faces closure is the Cotswold Geriatric Hospital, near Prince Charles's home at Tetbury. The Prince recently summed Mr John Cantwell, the health authority chairman, to Highgrove House to express his concern about the possible closure of the hospital.

Yesterday, Mr Cantwell said the authority had a duty

to stay within its budget. "It is because the Government has not given us enough money to cover the effects of inflation. I am asking every member of the authority, regardless of politics, to tell their MPs that the cuts are due entirely to the lack of funding and our increasing workload."

About 27 beds will close, with some transfers to other GP hospitals.

The authority hopes to raise £400,000 by closing the hos-

pital and maternity units at the 72-bed Dilke Hospital, Cinderford, and Berkeley Hospital, Berkeley.

The ban on routine operations is expected to lead to 300 non-urgent operations being cancelled over Christmas.

Other cost-saving measures include asking orthopaedic surgeons to use only a certain kind of prosthesis for hip operations and instituting less expensive on-call arrangements for junior doctors.

Some hospital wards will have to close for three-month periods and general surgery and ophthalmic wards will be designated as five-day wards.

"We hope the measures will save £800,000 in all, but we have had to use an emergency fund of £500,000 to make up the rest", Mrs Pamela Charlwood, the authority's director of planning, said.

The budget had been over-

spent largely because of government underfunding on pay awards and NHS price inflation, Mrs Charlwood said. "We have also increased throughput in our acute hospitals by between 2 and 10 per cent."

Mr Ken Jarrold, district general manager, said he deeply regretted the need to introduce service restrictions.

Wolverhampton is to lose more than a fifth of its adult surgical beds; 114 beds are to be closed at New Cross and Royal hospitals.

Unions are threatening immediate industrial action. The decision has been opposed by doctors, with Dr Edwin Swarbrick, the only authority member to vote against the cuts, describing the measures as "the dismantlement of hospital services in Wolverhampton".

Waiting patients 'dying'

By Craig Seton

Eighteen cancer patients died last month while waiting for radiotherapy treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, it was claimed yesterday.

A consultant said that patients with potentially curable cancers could become incurable because they would have to wait eight weeks for treatment.

Dr Terence Priestman, consultant radiotherapist, said the waiting list for radiotherapy treatment had grown to 550 because of a shortage of high energy radiotherapy machines.

The hospital had only five and needed an "absolute minimum" of seven. He claimed the shortage was due to a lack of long-term investment by the West Midlands Regional Health Authority.

He said the hospital was the only regional centre in the country with a significant waiting list.

He said: "One effect is that 18 people died in November before they could get treatment." However, he said that it was impossible to say whether they would have lived if they had been treated.

"Our anxiety is that people with potentially curable cancers will be incurable by the time they come in."

The health authority said the number of cancer patients being treated in the region was rising.

The general council of the TUC yesterday called on the Government to spend £750 million extra on National Health Service "to offset the effects of the penny-pinching policies which are now becoming obvious in closed wards, cancelled operations and an increasingly frustrated workforce".

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said the money would be in addition to the amount set out in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

wording to that on the petition, would be sent to the press", she said.

Mrs Schofield said the signatures had been used in good faith.

The BMA said: "Mr Bolt accepts he did sign the petition, although he cannot remember doing so. Mr Todd also accepts it was his signature, although he was unaware of the context the document was going to be used in."

Prince is briefed on health cuts

By Brian James

The chairman of Gloucester Health Authority, John Cantwell, was yesterday asked for a telephone briefing for the Prince of Wales into cuts in the county's services, including the closure of the hospital closest to the Prince's home, Highgrove.

This was the second time the two have been in communication about problems facing the network of small cottage hospitals on which the area's health services depend.

Last month, Mr Cantwell was invited to Highgrove to explain to the Prince the financial problems facing the area authority. After their meeting, Mr Cantwell said: "The Prince was very concerned about possible closures and their effect on the villages. I have promised to keep him informed."

However, Mr Cantwell said: "It would be wrong to suggest the Prince was concerned with this hospital for the elderly just because it was local. He is concerned about communities, and the communities are going to be very hard hit."

Any criticism or accusations of an unfeeling attitude towards Gloucester's problems will be especially hard for the Government to hear because

this health authority is the Tory heartlands, according to Mr Cantwell, already embraced many Thatcherite solutions to its funding problems.

The authority has long since privatized many of its services, including domestic cleaning, catering and laundry, and also makes money from flower shops, parking spaces and the hiring of one hospital roof for the disc-site for telecommunications, accounting for efficiencies worth £2.5 million in five years.

Mr Cantwell, a retired local businessman who has served the health services since 1957, added: "Our management costs are 3.8 per cent. Show me a commercial concern in the country who would not be delighted to be able to say as much."

Then why the overrun on the budget of £62 million to care

for the population of 300,000? He explained that the authority was given a 3.75 per cent increase in its budget this year to counter inflation and meet wage increases, but wages had gone up 7.5 per cent.

"There is going to be an upward over some of these cuts. At, for example, Dilke Hospital where we are shutting a maternity ward just three months after we gave an assurance it would stay open. But we are now quite powerless."

Other cuts include cancelling all routine operations for three weeks over Christmas, postponing all joint surgery for three months and stopping less implants for near-blind elderly for two months. "Some of these temporary ward closures are, I'm afraid, likely to become permanent. Unless of course we get more money."

Then why the overrun on the budget of £62 million to care

Cancer unit 'not victim of cash cuts'

The proposed closure of a cancer unit at Southend Hospital, Essex, is not a cash-saving exercise, Mr Terry Hunt, the general manager of the North East Thames regional health authority, said yesterday.

He was commenting on a letter to *The Times* in which 17 consultant surgeons, physicians and gynaecologists said closure of their unit would lead to premature and more painful deaths and could not be justified on medical or economic grounds.

Mr Hunt said the region planned two new purpose-built cancer centres at Chelmsford and Harold Wood on the outskirts of London to serve the whole of Essex.

There would be hostel accommodation for patients.

Top doctors withdraw petition forgery claim

Two leading physicians withdrew claims last night that their signatures had been forged on a petition presented to the Prime Minister protesting about under-funding of the National Health Service.

Mr David Bolt, president of the British Medical Association, and Mr Ian Todd, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, had denied signing the petition, handed in on Tuesday at Downing Street,

which led to a Commons rumpus between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock.

Mr Bolt and Mr Todd said they had not realized their signatures were to be used on a letter, which appeared in *The Guardian*, complaining that lack of government funds was undermining the NHS.

However, they acknowledged that they agreed with

the sentiments expressed in the petition and the letter.

Mrs Julia Schofield, head of Hospital Alert, the pressure group which organized the 1,200-signature petition, said she would personally apologise for using their names on the letter to the newspaper without asking them.

"However, we did make it clear in all the literature sent out that copies of the letter, which contained identical

wording to that on the petition, would be sent to the press", she said.

Mrs Schofield said the signatures had been used in good faith.

The BMA said: "Mr Bolt accepts he did sign the petition, although he cannot remember doing so. Mr Todd also accepts it was his signature, although he was unaware of the context the document was going to be used in."

A bad case of the almost laughing policemen

By Howard Foster

As test cases of new British legislation go, the crown prosecution service is likely to want to forget the day it tried to win one by introducing a poster depicting the Prime Minister dressed in fishnet stockings, suspenders and wielding a leather whip as its main exhibit in court four of the Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in central London.

The offending montage also carried the words: "On your knees to Madame M. You must make up your mind, do you want to work with Madame or not?"

It was the work of Mr Peter Rix, an artist, and, the prosecution service contended, was put up in Kensington High Street three days before the last general election. It was not only an offence under the laws against flyposting, the service said, but a test case under the new Public Order Act 1986.

Yet again, the establishment was drawn up against defendants backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Section 5(1)(b) of this Act makes it an offence punishable with a maximum fine of £400 if someone "displays as writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting within the hearing or sight of a

person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress".

Mr Peter Thornton, the defence counsel who yesterday represented Mr Rix, aged 36, his wife, Mrs Belinda Rix, aged 28, Miss Jane Hagger, aged 29, and Miss Emily Booth, aged 28, all artists of Loughborough Park, Brixton, who pleaded not guilty to flyposting and Public Order Act offences, had assembled clients and witnesses ready for a 10am start.

Mysteriously, no crown prosecutor arrived. Not only that, but, it transpired, the prosecution service had cancelled its representation. Just

as the stipendiary magistrate, Mr I M Baker, was about to justify inquiries, an unfortunate prosecution service lawyer who happened to be in court made himself known and, given 10 minutes to read the prosecution file, agreed to conduct the case.

According to the evidence of Police Constable Anthony Travis, he and his colleagues, PC Stephen Sims, had been driving down Kensington High Street late at night on June 8 when they saw Miss Hagger standing near a wall holding a large piece of paper and a brush.

Mr Thornton asked both PC Travis and PC Sims what

their reaction had been when they saw the poster. PC Travis said that the poster was "fanny... I wouldn't say very funny". PC Sims concluded that he found the poster "slightly amusing".

Armed with the confession of the "almost laughing policeman" Mr Thornton pressed home his advantage. The prosecution had produced no victim who had been "harassed", "alarmed", or "distressed", and, anyway, the police had found the poster "fanny". What was more, the poster had never been stuck on the wall.

Mr Baker ruled that there was no case to answer.

Besieged Labour councillors call police

By Ian Smith

Police were last night reluctantly summoned by Labour-controlled Manchester City Council to remove left wing activists who laid siege to the town hall for seven hours to prevent councillors approving the authority's most stringent cuts in jobs and services.

Militant Tendency and Socialist Workers Party supporters blocked the way to the council chamber.

As councillors tried to edge their way into the council chamber they were kicked and jostled by more than 150 extremists who blocked corridors chanting: "Stop the Labour Party making Tory cuts".

Town hall officials, expecting demonstrations over proposals to achieve £39 million savings by cutting 3,750 jobs, had sealed off one of the internal bridges leading to the council chamber. But this measure failed to stop the demonstrators.

The Labour leader, Councillor Graham Stringer, at first refused to call the police. But at a Labour group meeting it was decided by a 10-vote majority to call for police help, although only on condition no arrests were made.

Police refused to accept this condition and instead of entering the town hall used loud hollers to order the demonstrators to leave. After an hour the militants folded their banners and left.

Councillors had a Christmas lunch in the town hall dining room as the protesters chanted outside.

The loss of more than 500 teaching and lecturing posts, 200 social services jobs and closure of four old people's homes was agreed at committee stage.

Militant union row deepens

By John Spicer

The Civil and Public Services Association faced a new crisis last night over an internal investigation into alleged threatening behaviour by Militant Tendency members on the executive committee against Mr Barry Reamsbottom, the moderate press officer.

The new dispute is over the composition of the inquiry team. Senior officers asked Mr John Macrae, CPSA deputy general secretary, and a Militant supporter, to be a member, but he has accused Mr Reamsbottom of lying.

Yesterday, Mr Marion Chambers, CPSA president, who called for the internal inquiry, said she wanted all sides represented on the inquiry team: Mr John Ellis, general secretary (a moderate), Mr Macrae, Miss Christine Kirk, a left-winger and union treasurer, and herself in the chair.

Moderate leaders are concerned at what has happened to the union after the takeover by Militant in elections last May. Membership has fallen by 5,000 to about 145,000.

Supporters of the militant line in the union have been accused of threatening behaviour against Mr Reamsbottom, the moderate press officer.

Mr Reamsbottom said he was not a member of the union and was not involved in the inquiry.

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MP insists doctors conspired over sexual abuse affair

By Peter Davenport

The MP who championed the plight of parents caught up in the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis yesterday repeated his allegations that doctors and social workers had operated a conspiracy against his constituents.

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, was the final witness on the seventh day of the inquiry into the affair.

He refused persistent requests by the lawyer representing senior Cleveland social workers to withdraw the allegation, first made in the House of Commons, that Dr Marietta Higgs and Mrs Sue Richardson, child abuse consultants, had "conspired and conspired" in the affair.

Yesterday Mr Bell widened his accusation to include Dr Higgs's colleague, Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, and the Director of Cleveland's Social Services, Mr Michael Bishop.

He said: "My view is that there was a clear conspiracy on behalf of people in this area to the detriment of my constituents. At the heart of the conspiracy was Dr Higgs, Dr Wyatt, Mrs Richardson, and I believe Mr Bishop either knew fully what was going on or he did not know fully but should have taken full responsibility for the actions of his department."

Mr James Townend, QC,

for the senior social workers, repeatedly questioned Mr Bell about the motive for his involvement with the parents in the crisis. He accused the MP of acting hypocritically and of seeking self advertisement. Mr Bell denied the accusation, and said there had been a "fundamental attack on family life" in the county and added: "I do not withdraw a single word of my statement to the House of Commons."

The questioning of Mr Bell, himself a barrister, was among the most pointed and critical at the inquiry.

In a statement read by Miss Eleanor Platt, for the Northern Regional Health Authority, Mr Bell was accused of jeopardizing paediatric services and impugning the impartiality and integrity of a panel set up to provide second opinions on children diagnosed as sexually abused.

He was also questioned by Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for Cleveland County Council, about his allegations that social services had been "empire building" by inflating the crisis to attract more resources.

The MP had said that two local councillors had been put up by the department and briefed with misleading fig-

ures to argue before their committee for more finance. Mr Stewart said that the MP had no evidence for his allegations.

Mr Bell submitted 49 pages of evidence to the inquiry and part of it dealt with his relationship with the Director of Social Services.

He said: "I had looked upon Mike Bishop as an able man caught up in events. It now occurred to me that, rather than being simply caught up in them, his Social Services Department was a willing and co-operative participant."

When he was first alerted to the crisis he thought it was a post general election hoax, but he soon realized the extent of the problem and decided to "break the circuit" by which a diagnosis of sexual abuse was followed by a Place of Safety Order on the child.

He was so concerned about events at Middlesbrough General Hospital that in June he and his wife decided it would be "imprudent" for their son aged five to be treated there after an accident.

Mr Bell said that he consulted his lawyer about the possibility of obtaining an injunction to prevent Drs Higgs and Wyatt from practising as a way of resolving the crisis until their diagnostic technique had been clarified.

Tapping wells of historical information



What sort of water did medieval Londoners drink? Mr Richard Trew (above), a microbiologist with the Thames Water Authority, hopes to provide an answer soon. He is testing samples from Clerks' Well, one of

London's oldest supply points, for metals, organic materials and bacteria, and will give the results to Clerkenwell Heritage next week. The water supply which gives Clerkenwell, north-east London, its name, dates

back to at least 1140, when the parish clerks of London performed plays near the site. Water flowed from the outer wall of the Nunnery of St Mary's into a public well, given to the people of Clerkenwell in 1673 by Lord North-

ampton. The well was used until 1856, when it was closed for fear of cholera. The exact site was lost until 1924, when renovation work on Farringdon Lane uncovered it in a basement. (Photograph: Dennis McNeelance.)

BBC's new year television

Emphasis on 'home-grown' material

By Lynda Mardin

Clive James will quit London Weekend Television for the BBC. Joan Bakewell will present a religious series and Maggie Smith will appear on BBC for the first time in 15 years. They were some of the surprises announced yesterday when the BBC unveiled a £72.5 million package of programmes for the new year.

Mr Jonathan Powell and Mr Alan Yentob, recently appointed controllers of BBC1 and BBC2, emphasized that the accent would be on "home-grown" material, particularly drama, in the 1,500 hours of new material for the winter season, beginning next month.

The announcement that Clive James is to defect to the

BBC after eight years with LWT was made by Mr Yentob, who described the Australian presenter as "accessible, intelligent and under-stretched".

Mr Yentob said there would be new challenges for Mr James and indicated he might be employed in arts, as well as entertainment, programmes.

Among live broadcasts will be Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, relayed direct from the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and in February a special *Arena* programme will feature a four-hour satellite broadcast from Mardi Gras celebrations in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Trinidad.

Opera enthusiasts will also be able to see the British television premiere of *Night*

Osborne's controversial opera, *The Electrification of the Soviet Union*, recently mounted by Glyndebourne's touring company.

A *Night of Comic Relief*, with stars including Mel Smith, Griff Rhys Jones and Warren Mitchell, will have the aim of raising money for famine victims in Africa.

Comedy programmes also include *First of the Summer Wine*, a 45-minute film in which three unknown actors play the pensioners Compo, Clegg and Seymour from the popular *Last of the Summer Wine*, in their young days. Peter Salts depicts the father of his usual character and there are hopes that the film might lead to a new series.

Ronnie Barker, the co-

median, returns to the screen with a new character, *Clarance*, a short-sighted removal man, and Penny Downie features in a new six-part serial about an advertising agency, entitled *Campaign*. *Bergerac* is back with a new series, as is *All Creatures Great and Small*.

On BBC1 on January 4, *Panorama* will report on Mrs Thatcher's 3,000 days in office. Joan Bakewell, whose contract as BBC Arts Correspondent was recently not renewed, is to present *Heart of the Matter* and Maggie Smith brushes with religion as a vicar's wife without much regard for God in *Bed Among The Lentils*, one of six monologues under the umbrella title, *Talking Heads*.

Portfolio Gold - Win will mean early wedding

Three winners shared the £12,000 prize in yesterday's Portfolio Gold competition. They are Mr Victor Lyte, of Manor Road, Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire; Mr David Powell, of Serpentine Road, Wallasey, Merseyside; and Dr Anthony Dismorr, of Hare Road, Somerton, Oxfordshire.

Mr Lyte, aged 29, is a nursing teacher. The win is especially welcome for him as it means he will be able to move his wedding forward. He and his fiancée, Jackie Crowther, had planned to marry in August. The win is also particularly welcome for Dr Dismorr, aged 67, a retired GP. He and his wife, Valerie, are moving home soon and will spend some of their £4,000 on decorating their new Gloucestershire home.

Mr Powell, aged 43, is an input processing manager for the National Girobank.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn BB1 6AJ.



Dr Dismorr: "Money to be spent on decorating."

Rape sentence judge attacked

MPs and women's groups called yesterday for the resignation of Mr Justice Jupp after his decision on Monday to give a rapist a two-year suspended sentence.

Chester Crown Court was told the defendant, of Congleton, Cheshire, had threatened and assaulted his former wife before raping her twice.

The judge said the woman had given evidence that she did not want her husband to be punished. Mrs Jo Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, said the sentence was "absolutely outrageous".

A firm and decisive judge

By Peter Davenport

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, who has been heading the judicial inquiry into the Cleveland child sexual abuse crisis with a firm and decisive hand since August, is to be appointed to the Court of Appeal. It was announced yesterday. She will be the first woman appointed to the court.

It was, she said yesterday, a great honour but one which left her with a proper sense of apprehension.

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss was at pains to stress that she believed it was her capability as a judge, rather than her qualities as a woman, which had led to the elevation.

The inquiry, which heard its final witness yesterday, has been the longest of its kind, and the media coverage has been extensive, making her name and face better known than most judges would ever be.

She can give the appearance of severity, yet she has an engaging personality, a warm smile and a sharp wit.

Yesterday the future Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, who will be sworn in on January 11, took time to give her reaction



Lord Justice Butler-Sloss: "I see myself as a judge first."

to the news which she had heard two weeks ago.

"I tend to see myself as just one of five new Lord Justices. I see my promotion as promotion of a judge and I see myself as a judge rather than in a female capacity."

"Nevertheless, I am conscious and very proud to be the first woman to go to the Court of Appeal and I do think as a woman I do think a little differently to a man."

Dame Ann Elizabeth Oldfield Butler-Sloss, aged 54, determined at the age of 12 to become a lawyer, a not unma-

nal ambition for the member of a famous legal family but still a difficult one for a woman.

Her father was the High Court judge Sir Cecil Harvis, who passed sentence on Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged. The experience of watching her father pull on the black cap was one which lives with her still.

Her brother is Lord Havers, the former Lord Chancellor, and her husband sits as a High Court judge in Kenya. Their home in this country is a Devon farmhouse.

She did not go to university but gained a pupillage and a place in chambers. Called to the Bar in 1955, she left to become a Registrar of the Family Division in 1970, a move which made raising her three children easier.

In 1979, she was appointed a High Court judge in the same division, one of only three women holding such a position in the country.

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss said that the new appointment was the summit of her career in the law. "It is far beyond what I ever expected to achieve."

Christmas treats for the homeless

By Michael McCarthy

Two to three thousand old and young people will sleep rough in the streets of London over Christmas, a charity for the single homeless said yesterday.

Crisis at Christmas, which provides accommodation and food for the homeless over the holiday period, has added an annex to its emergency shelter in a converted factory in Bermondsey, south London, which last year took in between five and six hundred people.

Its administrator, Mr Stuart Craig, said yesterday that up to 30,000 people would be homeless in the capital over Christmas, many of them in squats, staying in run-down buildings or in bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Some two to three thousand would be sleeping in the streets.

"It will be very miserable for them, as they will feel the isolation from the rest of

society even more at this time."

The Crisis at Christmas shelter, which will be open for six days from December 23 will provide mattresses, showers, some clothing and food. On Christmas Day there will be a Christmas dinner with 1,000lbs of turkey cooked by the Army Catering Corps and Christmas puddings received as gifts.

Last year the shelter, which is manned by 800 volunteers, was full and it expects to be so this year, Mr Craig said.

Several hundred of those sleeping rough in London are likely to be young people under 20, the charity, Centrepoint Soho, said yesterday.

Centrepoint runs a night shelter with 23 beds for young people which normally opens from 8pm to 8am but will be open continuously from December 23-27.

Business frowns on smokers

By David Sapsford

Britain's biggest company is to ban smoking at its London headquarters at a time when an increasing number of managers are refusing to hire anyone who smokes, it was disclosed yesterday.

British Petroleum confirmed that its 3,500 London employees would be prohibited from smoking in the new year in all public areas except for designated spaces.

The Institute of Directors, in a survey of more than 1,000 executives, disclosed that three-quarters would be prepared to introduce a ban if employees requested one.

Mr Robert Joy, the institute's employment research executive, said yesterday: "Many bosses are actively discriminating against smokers: a lot simply will no longer hire them. There is a long-term movement towards a non-smoking workforce."

Leading article, page 17

Jet smoke hoods rejected

The Civil Aviation Authority ruled yesterday that airlines ruled that they would not be forced to carry smoke hoods for passengers in aircraft fires.

The authority said that smoke hoods were not sufficiently developed to prove effective in all kinds of fires and could prove hazardous in some. Further work was needed.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, its chairman, said: "The more that can be done to prevent the spread of fire and smoke by other means the less smoke hoods may be needed."

Demands for the introduction of smoke hoods have been increasing since the Manchester airport fire disaster two years ago, particularly from manufacturers which see potential sales.

Hurd tightens safeguards

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A tightening of safeguards against prisoners released on compassionate grounds committing new offences was announced yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

It comes in the wake of the case of James Godfried, a convicted rapist freed from a British jail by royal prerogative after he was said to present no risk.

He hanged himself last month in a Greek prison, where he was awaiting trial on a charge of murdering an American tourist.

Mr Hurd said in a letter to Mr Archie Hamilton, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary, that if someone was to be released whose past record suggested that there might be a risk of serious re-offending,

there would be two criteria. The expectation must be that the offender was close to death and his condition such that risk of re-offending could effectively be discounted.

Wherever practicable, the release of a terminally ill prisoner should be by parole and not special remission of sentence under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy, which carried no powers of supervision or recall.

New arrangements would be introduced enabling the Parole Board to give urgent advice where a prisoner eligible for parole was being considered for early release on compassionate grounds. The board could help in assessing risks of re-offending.

Second, if release was agreed, the prisoner would be given parole and should be

subject to the usual conditions of supervision and residence, preventing him from leaving the country without authority.

The use of special remission of sentence will be largely confined to cases where a terminally ill prisoner was less than three months from the end of his sentence and there was no reason to fear serious re-offending.

Where early release was justified because of a family tragedy the aim would be to use temporary release under the prison rules or parole.

The use of special remission under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy would be confined mainly to those prisoners whose release, because they were near the end of their sentence, would be permanent and where there was no apparent risk of re-offending.

Victorian views have little appeal

A painting by John O'Connor of St Paul's Cathedral, seen from Ludgate Hill, contributed to the 38 per cent failure rate at Sotheby's Victorian paintings sale yesterday, being bought in at £32,000 (estimate £50,000 to £70,000).

Top price of £22,000 (double the estimate) was achieved for a still-life of fruit on a marble ledge by Edward Leighton, while a painting of a lady sitting aboard a houseboat by Arthur Hacker, RA, sold for £21,450 to the dealer David Messum, whose mission is to alert buyers to the beauties of "British Impressionism".

In the small sculpture section, another dealer, Peter

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Nahum, bought himself a bargain bronze entitled "The Sluggard" by Lord Leighton. Estimated at £3,500 to £5,000, it sold for £4,400.

Christie's had similar mixed fortunes at a clocks and watches sale, with 31 per cent left on their hands. A pair of gold watches belonging to Lady Kinloss, their cases decorated with furious battle scenes, raised the highest price of £17,600 (estimate £6,000 to £10,000), while a Restoration

maple wood clock decorated with bronze caryatids sold for £15,400, double its estimate.

Christie's concluded this week's two-part Chinese ceramics sale with 72 per cent sold, and a top price of £14,300, paid by the London dealer, Spink, for a large, celadon jade vase, carved with birds, fish and turtles.

Decorative arts at Christie's did better, thanks to a successful afternoon sale, achieving £379,000 with 88 per cent

sold. The top three prices were achieved for Gallé vases, the first of which soared £20,000 above its upper estimate to £60,500, the other two steering closer to their estimates at £28,600 and £20,900 apiece. All sold to a private buyer on the telephone.

Impressive prices were also reported from Sotheby's, New York, where on Tuesday evening a group of Fabergé, Russian works of art and silver fetched a total of £765,032, with 19 per cent unsold. A rare Russian silver gilt and enamel punch bowl and ladle by Fyodor Ruckert, sold for \$74,250 (£39,919; estimate \$45,000 to \$65,000) to a private collector.

Pensioners lead flight for the holiday sun

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Pensioners are leading a race to escape to the sun for Christmas, according to travel companies and airlines which reported record bookings yesterday.

Thomson Holidays said: "We have had a phenomenal response from the over 55s for breaks of between two weeks and two and a half months."

"Bookings are more than double the level they were last year with the traditional Mediterranean resorts leading the way."

The airlines said the most popular destinations were the Caribbean and Florida. British Airways has scheduled an extra 31 flights to islands such as Barbados and Jamaica in the next two weeks.

A spokesman said it was

often cheaper to spend a month or two in Spain with a promise of warm weather than face high fuel and food bills at home. 28 nights at the Hotel Monaca, Benidorm, cost £284, including air fares and all meals.

Thomas Cook reported that every long-haul holiday had been sold months ago. "There are simply no spaces left in the Caribbean, Egypt or even Thailand."

British Airways expected to carry more than 500,000 passengers, a 20 per cent increase on last Christmas, while British Caledonian reported a 30 per cent rise in bookings.

Britannia, Britain's biggest charter airline, was pressing every available aircraft into service to provide more than 300 flights next week.

Dear Mr. Moore, You could help me retain my dignity - will you?

My name is Joyce.

I travel a short distance every day to Southend Cancer Unit for radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer. It's bad enough having had one doctor handle me let alone building up the courage to face the radiotherapy team for daily treatment.

If Southend Cancer Unit closed, I don't know what would happen to women like me having to travel a long distance for treatment, staggering on to a train alone, feeling the peers of fellow passengers waiting for you to pass out after treatment - all this and losing the contact of at least a familiar team - it doesn't bear thinking about.

Please, please, please help women like me to retain some dignity - keep Southend Cancer Unit open - DON'T LET IT CLOSE.

Signed Joyce, age 51

Help Save Southend Cancer Unit - write to John Moore, Health Secretary NOW!

Inserted on behalf of: Save Southend Cancer Unit Campaign, c/o 25 Clatterfield Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Save Our Southend cancer unit



December 16 1987

Ministers raise health cash limits by £90m

Health authority cash limits throughout the United Kingdom would be increased by almost £90 million, Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, announced to the Commons.

He said that £75 million of the £90 million was for English health authorities and included £10 million in further recognition of the particular pressures from the steadily rising number of Aids cases that three of

HOSPITALS

£100 million for the UK as a whole.

In his statement, he said that the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr John Moore) had announced on November 3 that the provision for current expenditure on the hospital and community health services in England was being increased by £707 million for 1988-89, to a total of nearly £12,000 million.

That included an additional £50 million towards the rising cost of care and treatment for people with Aids or HIV infection, an additional £9 million for the further development of the breast cancer screening programme, and an additional £5 million to reinforce the programme of projects to reduce waiting lists and times.

Details of the overall increases in allocations to individual regional health authorities, which also took account of the £15 million special fund to help ease transitional problems in regions receiving the lowest growth, and of other allocations including the funding for Aids, were being published.

For every region, the extra allocations represented an increase over their current allocations of at least 5.5 per cent, compared with predicted general inflation of 4.5 per cent.

Bids would also be sought shortly for 1988-89 projects under the waiting list initiative, for which £30 million was available.

The Government remained committed to the principle of ensuring the fair distribution of

resources across the country, and that part of the allocations which depended on RAWP (Resources Allocation Working Party) was based on the existing formula.

But extensive work to examine possible improvements to it was being completed, with a view to considering changes for future years.

Separately, there were additional capital allocations of nearly £26 million. With receipts from land sales, which were predicted at more than £200 million, this would sustain the hospital building and improvement programme in which more than 450 major projects were being planned, designed or constructed.

Both current and capital allocations provided for 40 further breast cancer screening centres by the spring of 1989 over and above the 14 they expected to be in operation by the spring of 1988.

They also provided for more than £40 million of expenditure

on services which needed to be financed on a wider-than-regional basis. Full details of these supra-regional allocations were also being published.

They included increases for neonatal and infant cardiac surgery and for spinal injury services; the designation of a new liver transplant centre in Leeds; and the designation of a fourth heart transplant centre at

the Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester.

All these additional resources, with those released by continuing the successful cost-improvement programme and new money arising from income generation schemes, would enable health authorities to continue developing their services.

At the same time, action was also being taken to ensure that the speedier and more accurate information about the financial and service position of the health authorities was made available.

Steps were being taken to improve significantly the monitoring of health authorities' performance, with the intention of ensuring that resources were spent to maximum effect.

These new arrangements would include formal and regular monitoring of income and expenditure level, and of output and activity.

In addition, a special unit would shortly be set up to help authorities to take full advantage of income generation opportunities.

They would continue to encourage practical partnerships between the public and private sector (Labour protests) where this would clearly benefit the patients of the National Health Service.

The £7 billion a year of extra resources that the Government had already invested in hospital services since taking office had enabled it, by any measure, to provide more care to more people than ever before.

What he had announced today would help them to build on that.

Every regional health authority will be given at least an extra 5.5 per cent



Lord Stodart: I hope that the minister took care not to invade the birds' privacy

Delicate queries about pelicans

Concern about the sex life of pelicans in St James's Park in central London spurred press into quotations after a question by Lord Stodart of Leinster (C).

Lord Stodart wanted to know the number and sexes of the pelicans (On May 7, 1963, when he was an MP, he tabled a similar question in the Commons. He was told that there was only one pelican, Paul, in the park, but that others would be joining him).

Lord Hesketh, a Government whip, told him that there were now five pelicans. He could not disclose which sex they were because it was difficult for humans to tell.

Lord Stodart hoped that Lord Hesketh's investigation had not been too indicative in these days when there was considerable concern about invasion of privacy. He suggested that only a pelican would know the sex of another pelican. He asked Lord Hesketh to pay a visit to the pelicans next spring to see if anything was going on.

Lord Hesketh agreed to make the visit. However, he warned against expectation. Since the reign of James I no productive activity had taken place among the pelicans.

Lord McIntosh of Haringey (Lab) said that it might be more sensible to start examining the birds from the other end. He added:

A wonderful bird is the pelican: His bill he hold more than his belican. He can take in his beak Food enough for a week, But I'm darned if I see how the helican.

(Dixon Lanier Merritt)

Lord Hesketh explained that notes on the top of the bill could indicate a pelican's sex during the breeding season.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhys, leader of the Labour peers, asked, if pelicans had been in the park since James I, where they had come from?

Lord Hesketh replied that they were supplied via "diplomatic channels" as gifts from abroad. Four of the present birds came from a visit to St James's Park and the fifth as a gift from the state of Louisiana.

Welsh rate grant is approved

The Welsh Rate Support Grant Report 1988-89, providing for expenditure of £1,394 million, was approved in a Commons debate early this morning, as were similar reports for 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, said that the settlement was fair and realistic. The level of local government current expenditure since 1979-80 had increased in real terms by £152 million, or 11 per cent. Grant, too, had been set at the generous level of £1,256 million, which was about £1,200 a household.

He was confident that all councils would respond to the settlement and recognize that it offered real and tangible support in providing the services essential to their communities and to Wales.

It would enable local authorities to play a crucial and exciting role with central government in Wales. If spending was in line with the settlement, then rates should rise on average by no more than 1.3 per cent.

Mr Alan Williams, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that local authorities were still absorbing the impact that the settlement would have on them, but that they were confident about what would happen when there would be a combination of rate rises and service cuts.

The district councils were predicting that about 15 of the 37 districts would have to increase their rates by 10 per cent. The average was likely to be between 7 and 9 per cent, much higher than the rate of inflation.

Government 'should have acted much more quickly'

The Government should have discovered the shortfall in health service funding sooner and acted more quickly to remedy it, Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said.

He provoked repeated Conservative protests when he insisted that the extra money Mr Newton had announced amounted to only £75 million.

During his reply, Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, disagreed that he was considering controls on medical agencies set up to sell the services of junior doctors.

Mr Cook said that the statement "will be welcomed in the health service - in the same way that a drowning man grasps at a straw" (Labour cheers and renewed Conservative protests).

He congratulated Mr Newton that his monitoring arrangements had revealed a shortfall on income in hospitals.

"The monitoring arrangements of just about everybody else in the service noticed this months ago" (renewed Labour cheers and Conservative protests).

Why was it, then, that for weeks since MPs returned from the summer recess, Mr Newton and Mrs Margaret Thatcher had repeatedly denied any shortfall?

"This is the ninth month of the financial year. Why wait until this last gasp for extra finance, until 3,500 beds have closed, 10,000 operations have been postponed and 24 infants have died waiting for intensive care?"

"Why did the Government not act earlier and why is this such a widow's mite in contribution?"

He said the Government had under-funded the nurses' pay award this year by £170 million. Where was the other half of the short change?

If the sum now being given was adequate, which beds in which hospitals would now reopen and which operations would be rescheduled? (Labour laughter)

Since the Government was going to monitor how the money was spent, would it be free from the sort of strings attached last week to money for Trent and the West Midlands.

The minister had obliged them to spend it in private hospitals, not their own?

How could Mr Newton persist with the very same inadequate increase next year that he had announced last month? Was that his response to the doctors who had gone to

Wednesday's figures for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) showed the Treasury had received £3,000 million more than expected this year and had spent £1,000 million less than expected.

That left the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson)

Mr Alice Mahon (Hull, Lab) was given leave to introduce into the Commons the National Health Service (Improved Provision of Services) Bill, which, she said, would cover all aspects of health care and was aimed at the elimination of hospital waiting lists and the provision of sufficient resources to meet the needs and practical requirements of the system.

It would also seek an end to all charges, introduce an adequate programme of preventative health care, including provision of training and adequate rates of pay for staff.

She said that the Bill would also give the Prime Minister an opportunity to address the House without squawking statistics like some clockwork parrot.

Downing Street on Tuesday and asked for more money?

The health authorities said they needed another £935 million, so the £707 million would mean further cuts in health service budgets next year.

He asked for a clear undertaking that the Government would fully fund whatever increase the nurses got.

tax, but saving the health service (loud Labour cheers).

"Will Mr Newton resign if he does not get the money the health service needs?" (continued loud Labour cheers)

Mr Newton said that the increase for health authorities in England was just under £90 million, not the £75 million Mr Cook had mentioned (Conservative protests).

Mr Newton said Mr Cook had failed to read on to where the statement announced £13,300,000 storm damage money (loud Labour protests and cry of "That's not health care!" and Conservative laughter).

"Some 95 per cent of the review body awards was funded in initial allocations and well over £200 million additional money was made available at the time the awards were announced. The amount for the health authorities to find was some £24 million."

Alongside the £707 million available to the health authorities next year was £150 million of further cost improvement programmes. The total amount

doing very well, with £4,000 million in his hand.

One-tenth of that amount would enable every health authority to reopen the ward it had closed, fill empty beds and use operating theatres that were half-used during the week.

"The first priority for that money is not cutting income

for development of the service was far larger than Mr Cook had recognized.

The Government expected regional health authorities to take specific action on particular problems in particular health authorities.

Dennis J. Knight (Birmingham, Edgworth, C) said that he should look urgently at the long-term funding of the health service and bring in private money, and other monies available, to meet the needs.

Mr Newton said that he recognized the need to achieve resources from all possible quarters to add to those taken from the taxpayer.

Mr Cranley Ouslow (Woking, C) asked what he would do about medical agencies which had set up to sell the services of junior doctors.

In his part of England, they were costing health authorities a six-figure sum every year. It was a "rip-off" and should be stopped.

Mr Newton replied that a number of regional health authorities were taking steps towards setting up their own

agencies to combat this problem.

He was seriously considering the introduction of controls.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) asked whether the £90 million, although welcome, would be sufficient to grapple with the very serious problems of the NHS?

Mr Newton said that the amount he had announced today would make a significant difference to health authorities in advance of the huge additional allocation they could expect in 1988-89.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that for some years there had been growing anxiety about the quality of administration in the NHS at the regional level.

Mr Newton said that the Government was keen to improve still further the efficiency of regional health authorities as it was every other part of the service.

Mr Newton said later that Scotland would receive an extra £7.6 million, Wales £3.3 million and Northern Ireland £2.1 million.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C) condemned the Ethiopian Government, which, he said, was

There was "no way" in which the United Kingdom was going to help the Ethiopian Government - despite resurgent famine in the Horn of Africa - because the Addis Ababa regime was spending tremendous amounts on armaments instead of feeding its people, Mrs Lynne Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

However, she emphasized that the Government would continue fully to support humanitarian relief, through the famine relief co-ordination efforts of the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the Ethiopian capital.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C) condemned the Ethiopian Government, which, he said, was

spending three-quarters of the national wealth on arms and securing a \$4 billion credit from the Soviet Union for more, as well as "pre-gangster" 300,000 young Ethiopians into the Armed Forces.

Mrs Chalker agreed and said that the Government very much regretted the continued fighting in Ethiopia, which was causing great hardship and threatening the international relief effort, through destruction of, and danger to, food convoys.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stratford, Lab) cautioned against the civil war in Ethiopia being used as an excuse for cutting aid to the civilian population.

Mrs Chalker said that the Government and everyone wanted to see humanitarian aid given to the Ethiopian people.

Swanage yacht Bill is killed

The Swanage Yacht Haven Bill was effectively killed in the Lords on Tuesday night, as reported in later editions yesterday, when an amendment by Lord Raglan to have the third reading postponed for six months was agreed by 55 votes to 45.

The Bill would have allowed a private marina for 250 yachts in Swanage Bay.

Lord Raglan (SDP) said that the Bill would appropriate a large part of the natural haven and about half the sea available for mooring, enclosing it for private use.

At present the public had free access.

There was no room in that bay for both a marina and the present users.

Local Government Finance Bill 'Banded' poll tax is rejected

The idea that the rate of community charge should be banded according to income, as suggested by some Conservative backbenchers, would be the worst of all worlds, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons.

To combine capital value rates and local income tax would be disastrous.

Moving the second reading of the Local Government Finance Bill, Mr Ridley said that the average real annual increase in local authority spending had fallen since the 1970s but it was still too high.

Since 1979-80, local spending had increased by 18 per cent in real terms but by much more in many cities run by Labour. That was an unacceptable burden.

Under the present system, control of local government's

£45 billion gross annual spending was vested in 35 million electors, but only 18 million were liable to rateable value areas, regardless of their income. So a poor family in Birmingham was effectively subsidizing a richer family in Copehead.

Mr Patrick Cermack (South Staffordshire, C) intervened to say that if the community charge applied only to wage earners then the objections to it would be much less.

Mr Ridley said that he would be delighted to withdraw the phrase "wage earners" and use "people" instead, because the same applied whether those people were on wages, salaries or benefits.

No major political party supported the present system, and all had agreed there must be change.

It was unfair that, because rateable values were taken as a

measure of ability to pay, those in high rateable value areas paid more for the same services than those in low rateable value areas, regardless of their income. So a poor family in Birmingham was effectively subsidizing a richer family in Copehead.

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Progress on rights still slow

The Government was not satisfied with the slow progress on human rights at the Vienna Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said.

The Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South, OUP) asked if he would accept that an article in The Times on December 8 about separated families was one deserving of attention?

At a time when children all over the world wrote to Santa Claus asking for Christmas wishes, a child had written to Mr Gorbachev asking that she and her family might be allowed to go to Israel to meet the grandparents she had never seen.

Mr Mellor agreed. The Government took every opportunity to put forward individual human rights cases.

Britain will not aid Ethiopian regime

There was "no way" in which the United Kingdom was going to help the Ethiopian Government - despite resurgent famine in the Horn of Africa - because the Addis Ababa regime was spending tremendous amounts on armaments instead of feeding its people, Mrs Lynne Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

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Mrs Chalker said that the Government and everyone wanted to see humanitarian aid given to the Ethiopian people.

Liberal Party prepare for angry protests

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Liberal Party leadership is preparing for angry protests from its grassroots and members of its negotiating team when the draft constitution of the proposed new party is unveiled tomorrow.

Three and possibly four of the team of 15 will express reservations about the document, which the Social Democrats believe has met almost all of their objectives, particularly in the crucial area of policy formation.

The two leaders are preparing a policy stance for the new party, which threatens more protest from the Liberal grassroots on the key issue of defence, given the SDP leadership's view that a nuclear element must be retained.

They are also taking a tough line on Mr Cessari Howell, the Liberal MP who is to put an amendment to alter the proposed name of the new party, by saying that it is an all-or-nothing

package that will be voted on by the Liberal Assembly and the Council for Social Democracy in January.

Mr Robert MacLennan, the SDP leader, said: "If either the assembly or the council were to pass a resolution inconsistent with the agreement, then the whole package would fall."

"The negotiated agreement is something in the nature of a treaty. It is not amendable. It is not open to either of the two parties to pick and choose. If enough members take the view that an amendment, then of course the union would not go ahead."

Mr MacLennan, who confirmed that the SDP is nothing to do with Dr David Owen using the title "SDP" after the merger, said that the planned policy-making process was similar to the SDP's, which he had fought for in the negotiations.

The aim is to make policy formation much more structured and deliberative and to prevent activists "bouncing" the new party into policy stances.

But the plan will alarm many Liberal Party activists, who suspect that the aim is to reduce their influence.

The Local Government Bill, which would make councils put out to competitive tender their works contracts, was given a third reading by 308 votes to 215 - Government majority, 93 - at the end of a late-night debate on Tuesday.

At one stage, the debate was suspended by the Speaker for five minutes after demonstrations in the public gallery.

The Bill includes provisions prohibiting the promotion by local authorities of homosexuality.

These led to passionate debate and there were demonstrations against them from members of the public in the gallery leading, eventually, to the suspension of the sitting and the gallery's being cleared.

An Opposition amendment that the Bill should not prohibit anything that was aimed at discouraging discrimination against homosexuals was rejected by 309 votes to 222 - Government majority, 87.

A further Opposition amendment that nothing should prohibit the provision of information, counselling or advice to any pupil as to his personal or social development or family

relationship that could reasonably be regarded as likely to affect the development of pupils was also rejected by 309 votes to 222 - Government majority, 87.

On the motion for the third reading, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said: "There would be few Bills more obnoxious than that would pass through the House."

It took power away from local authorities, curbed their rights to use the media and supported the fascist apartheid regime in South Africa, bringing the regime aid and comfort.

It thus had the unique distinction of undermining civil rights abroad at the same time as it did exactly the same thing here.

Few Bills going through the House had that obnoxious face.

Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal environment spokesman, said that his party found the Bill objectionable because it discriminated against people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and women as well as abroad, particularly in relation to South Africa. In relation to the latter the Government had shown its true colours by demonstrating its willingness to sustain that regime.

Speaker suspends debate

Third reading for competitive tender measure

COUNCILS BILL

The following report of earlier stages of the debate appeared in later editions yesterday.

Mr Hughes moved an amendment, in a Liberal attempt, with Labour and some Conservative support, to modify the Government's decision to outlaw the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities. It was defeated by 205 votes to 309, a government majority of 104.

The amendment would have allowed a local authority to undertake sex education during which "an awareness of different sexual orientations may be taught".

He said that his amendment was not intended to undermine part of the Bill preventing a local authority from promoting homosexuality. The clause he sought to amend was almost irrelevant to most of Britain in the sense that it was based on a few localized examples of abuse or possible abuse.

To have this clause badly drafted and unqualified left it open to the sort of prejudice the Government had shown.

not for discrimination in their favour, but for equal treatment with everyone else.

It is quite wrong for local authorities to promote homosexuality, but this clause goes miles too far and should be amended to make it in any way acceptable to the House and to the country.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C) said that it was necessary to protect children and to ensure that irresponsible local authorities did not promote homosexuality, but this clause had gone much further than that.

Mr Cunningham said that equal treatment was central to the civil liberties of all people.

If banning promotion meant or carried the risk of meaning the banning of anti-discrimination activity, it would be a serious and retrograde step to civil liberties.

Mr Christopher Smith (Ipswich South and Finsbury, Lab) expressed horror at that part of the Bill. He viewed "with profound disgust" the fact that "sentiments of such intolerance" were being brought before MPs.

It would mean that local

authorities would regard any form of counselling or work for the gay community as prohibited.

Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said that the popular press gave the impression that every school was teaching children how to be gay. It was a pernicious lie.

Himmeler had issued a decree on the extermination of homosexuals. Many felt that the clause was one small step on the path that led to that sort of result.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, said that there was nothing in the clause that would put homosexuals at a disadvantage compared with anyone else. It was promotion of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship that the Government sought to prevent.

Objective discussion of homosexuality would be perfectly proper in the classroom. That was not promotion.

The Government's proposals would not prevent the legitimate provision of information or advice or unbiased counselling of pupils. But those activities which

Expert says MoD faces dire lack of researchers

By John Spicer

Ministry of Defence research establishments are seriously understaffed and are losing many people to better paid jobs in the private sector, a leading employment expert says.

Mr Richard Pearson, deputy director of the Institute of Manpower Studies, says skill shortages and understaffing are giving the Ministry of Defence "major problems in terms of its procurement programme".

Mr Pearson told *The Times* that Britain's defence research and development programme was suffering from persistent skill shortages in the information technology sector, involving electronics, aerospace and related products. He added: "The problem is difficult to quantify, but it is certainly getting worse and will continue to do so over the next five years. The problem particularly involves staff whose job it is to assess developments and equipment available."

In a recent article in *Nature* magazine, Mr Pearson said that more than half the Government's expenditure on research and development went on military work. In 1986, that stood at £2,400 million and overall, the UK allocated a higher share of its gross domestic product to defence research than any other large western government apart from the United States.

He said that defence research and development accounted for just over half the total amount the Government budgeted on R and D and was equal to the total R and D bill of the private sector.

Mr Pearson said critics of the high level of defence research expenditure argued that it was diverting scarce funds away from civil areas and contributed to Britain's poor industrial performance.

But supporters point to export sales worth nearly £6,000 million and the ministry's role as an important job creator.

Although there are shortages at Ministry of Defence establishments, Mr Pearson argues, of the 10 largest companies which recruit graduates in information technology, six have heavy defence interests. For two of those companies, the intake of defence-related work accounts for more than half the graduate intake — in one case totalling more than 300 vacancies for information technology graduates.

Mr Pearson says that apart from the all-round problem of skill shortages, both in the private and defence sectors, there is an apparent low level of technology transfer from UK defence research and development to civil applications.

He says that although there is an effort to encourage much more exchange, researchers are reluctant to change their type of work and there is a general problem of staff relocation.

Mr Pearson says a cut on government expenditure would not necessarily mean skills would be released for the private sector. Skills in the two sectors are very different.

Last night, the Ministry of Defence said that so far as it was concerned, there was no problem with skill or staff shortages in its research and development programme.

French maiden descends on Piccadilly



One of 13 sculptures being lowered by crane into position on the restored London Pavilion building overlooking Piccadilly Circus yesterday. The sculptures, by Guy Fostell, are based on illustrations of Victorian maidens by J M Beekinder, the French portraitist. Photograph: Deszall McNeelance

Infatuation led to emigré killing young woman

A Polish emigré shot dead a young woman on the threshold of a brilliant career in photography and then turned the gun on himself, an inquest at Poplar, east London, was told yesterday.

Warsaw-born Mr Maurice

Drukash, aged 61, shot Sharon Chazan, aged 24, twice in the neck in his east London flat before shooting himself in the head seconds later.

Det Supt Liam Gillespie told the hearing that Miss Chazan first met Mr Drukash

in 1986 while a student of photography working on a project about Jewish life. Mr Drukash, a furniture restorer who was unmarried, became infatuated with Miss Chazan. He gave her jewellery

belonging to his dead sister. His sister and mother had been raped in front of him by Germans during the war. Verdicts that Miss Chazan was unlawfully killed and that Mr Drukash killed himself were recorded.

'Children risk lives for Tube graffiti'

By David Sapsted

Children as young as 10 are risking their lives to spray graffiti on London Underground trains, an inquest at Westminster was told yesterday.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded on John Joporo, aged 11, of Albert Road, West Hampstead, killed last month when he was dragged under a Tube train at Kilburn Park station as he tried to put his graffiti identity mark, or tag, on the side of a carriage.

Mr David Swain, a London Underground programme manager, said the American case of tagging had become a big problem. London Regional Transport spent £750,000 a year on trying to keep children out of depots and on improved cleaning methods. However, the problem was increasing, particularly among groups aged 10 to 12.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, said: "Parents ought to check up that their children are not roaming the streets or going down to the trains".

● An inquest into Cecilia Yawson, aged 19, of Thornton Heath, south-east London, stabbed to death on an Underground train last Friday, was adjourned to May 10 by the Southwark coroner yesterday.

Case screening by clerks 'unlawful'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The use of unqualified junior clerks in the crown prosecution service to screen cases for a first hearing before magistrates has been declared unlawful in a confidential Law Society legal opinion. It was drawn up by the society's legal adviser, Mr Eric Hiley, after representations from some of the service's 800 prosecuting solicitors.

It is likely to lead to a withdrawal of co-operation in the training of clerks by the prosecuting solicitors and to fuel mounting concern about the new practice.

The First Division Association, which represents lawyers in the service, has said it is taking legal action against Mr Allan Green, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, over unqualified clerks deciding if certain cases should be prosecuted and proceed to a first hearing.

Yesterday Mr Hiley said: "Obviously this will have to be decided by the court. But our view is that there is certainly a good arguable case for saying it is unlawful; and if it is unlawful, then our view is solicitors should not train the clerks."

The issue will go to the society's ethics and guidance committee, which will decide what official advice the Law Society should give prosecuting solicitors.

But yesterday Mr David

Twigg, chairman of the crown prosecution service group within the First Division Association, said he would advise solicitors not to have any part in the training of clerks.

He said there was considerable concern that the use of clerks to screen cases would lead to their taking routine court cases. Unqualified clerks were being used to undertake bail applications before crown court judges in chambers.

Memoranda from crown prosecution managers show that the case screening is intended, if successful, to be applied to some cases which can be tried either by jury or by magistrates.

Some of the cases to be screened by the clerks, to see if there is enough evidence for them to proceed, for example, included cases which management admit are complex.

"It was decided on balance to include as reviewable by unadmitted staff cases involving more than one defendant despite the difficult issues of complicity and relative culpability which could arise", the management says.

The union, on the basis of counsel's opinion, believes the use of the clerks to see if cases should proceed to a hearing in the magistrates' court is unlawful and breaches the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 which set the service up.

Jail ballot criticized by Hurd

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, yesterday accused leaders of the Prison Officers' Association of mischief-making as prison officers were deciding by ballot on industrial action.

During their ballot campaign, association leaders have criticized plans to bring civilians into the prison service, saying security will be damaged.

The three-day ballot, which ends today, is expected to lead to a "yes" vote for action in a dispute about new working arrangements.

Mr Hurd said yesterday at the Chief Prison Officers' dinner at Loughborough University that using civilians was not a new idea. The police did so to increase efficiency.

"It does not involve job losses because changes are being introduced at a time of continuing expansion for the service."

"What it does mean is that prison officers can concentrate on those duties for which they have been trained and which involve the care and control of prisoners."

Legal pay claim set to fail

The Treasury is expected to refuse a request from Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, for an immediate pay rise for the 1,000 lawyers in the government legal service.

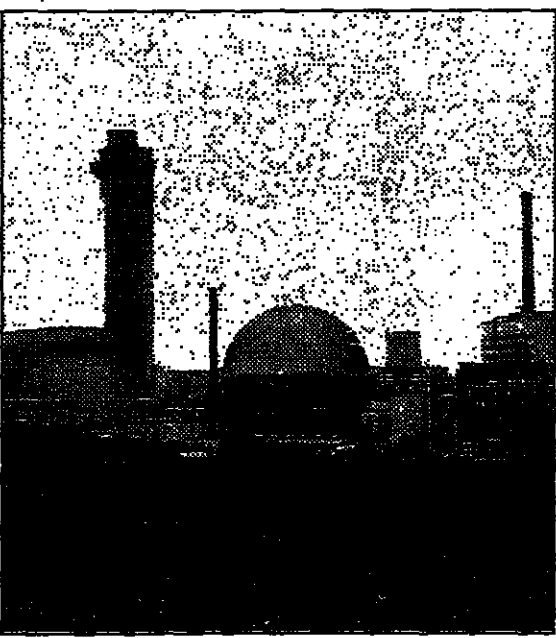
Sir Patrick acted because of the acute shortage of lawyers in the service and concern about the quality of advice being given to ministers. Yesterday, the Treasury said the Paymaster General would respond to his letter. The Attorney General's move comes after an internal Civil Service management report by Mr Dennis Trevelyan, First Civil Service Commissioner, in which he emphasized poor recruitment to the government legal service.

There is also concern at the poor quality of legal advice, with judicial review proceedings — by which ministerial decisions can be challenged — on the increase.

According to the lawyers' union, the First Division Association, the shortfall (some 40 per cent of posts advertised this year are still vacant) is leading to the use of casuals on hourly rates, some of whom do not come up to the required standard of the Civil Service.



British Nuclear Fuels are suing Hans Guit (already serving 3 months imprisonment) and Greenpeace Netherlands for £250,000 costs and damages for blocking the Sellafield nuclear discharge pipe.



According to established scientific models British Nuclear Fuels' Sellafield discharges will cause up to 115 deaths, 170 non-fatal cancers and 100 genetic defects*

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TO SELLAFIELD'S
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**FOR PUTTING A STOP
TO AS MANY AS
115 LIVES-NO CHARGE.**

No other country operating a nuclear reprocessing facility would permit Sellafield's nuclear discharges.

They would be outlawed.

Sellafield is permitted to discharge up to 600 times more than plants in the United States, Germany, France and Japan.

The financial cost of damage done by Sellafield's discharges to human health and the environment exceeds £138m.†

*Based on US govt. Biological Effects of Ionising Radiation Committee risk estimates.

†Based on US govt. Environmental Protection Agency criteria.

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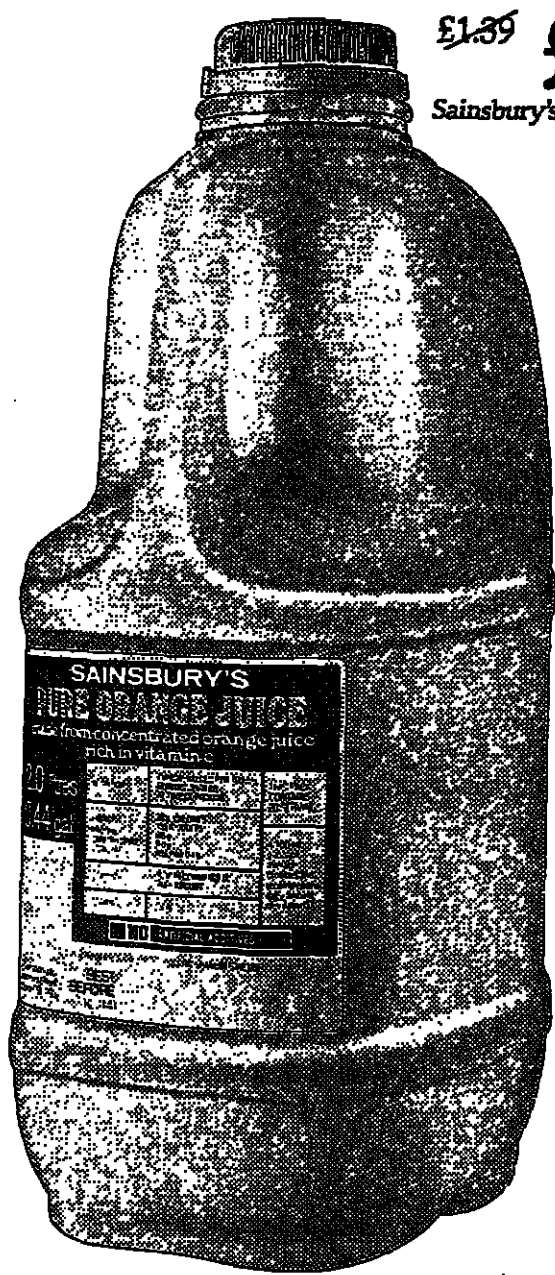
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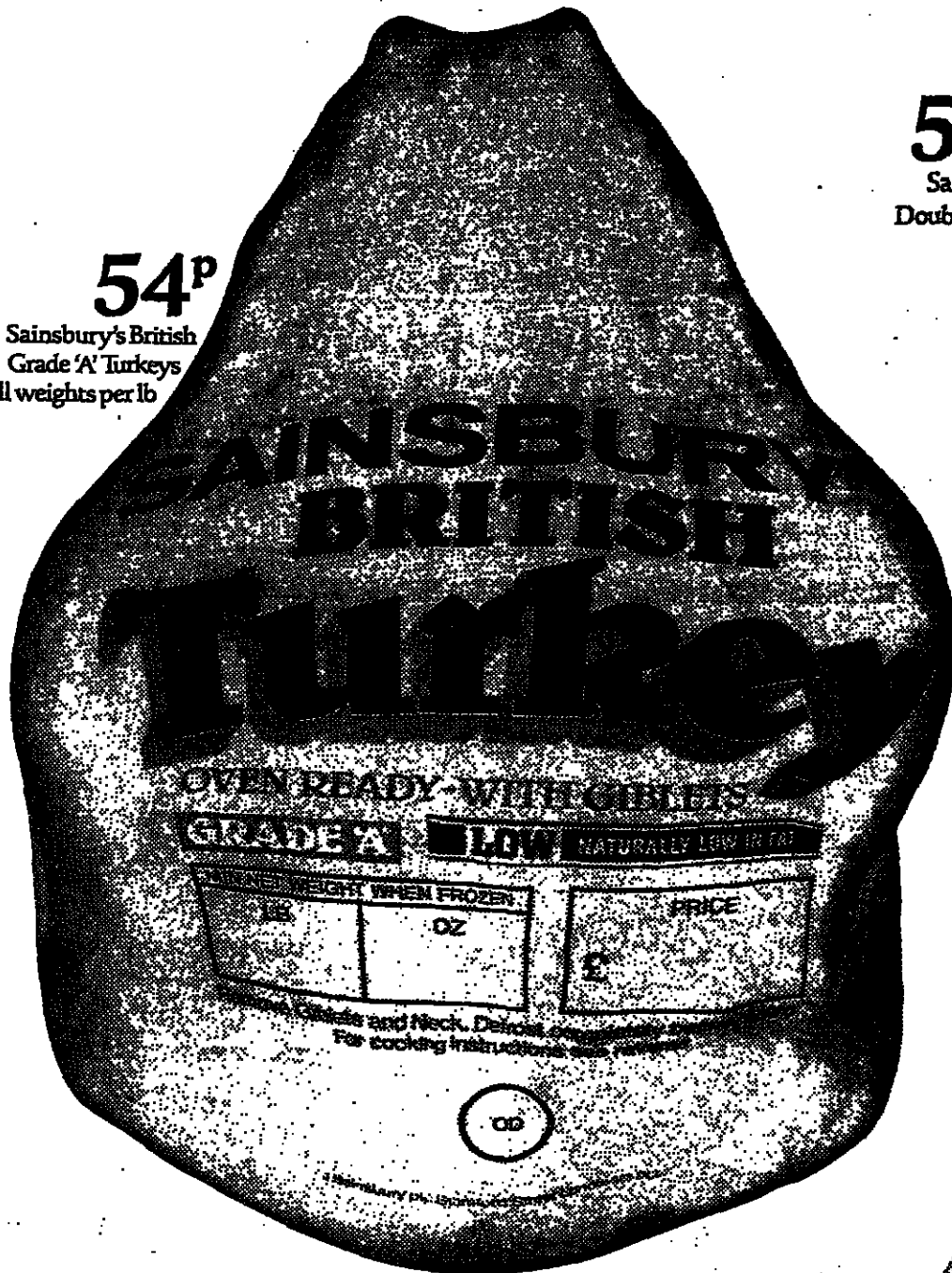
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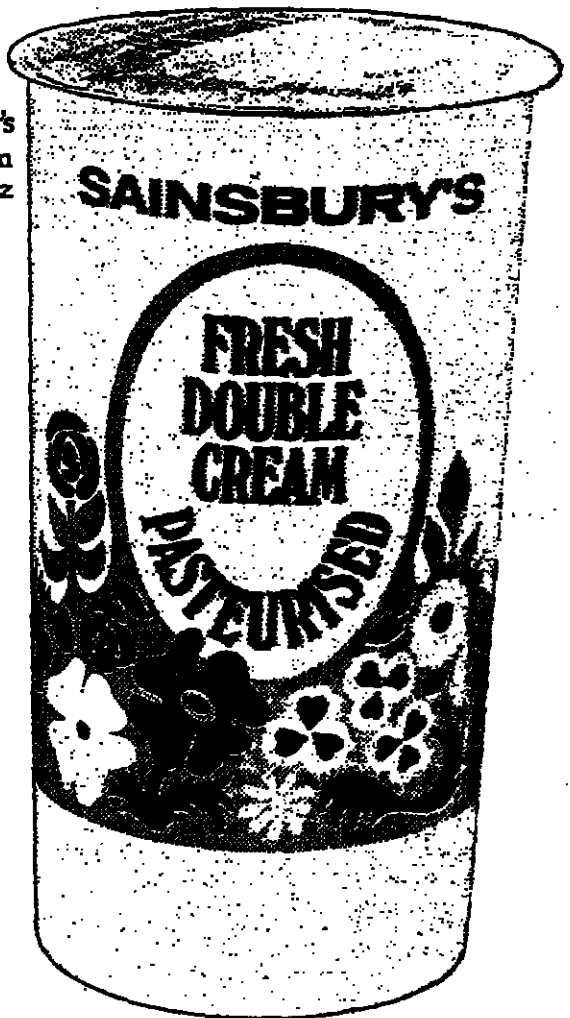


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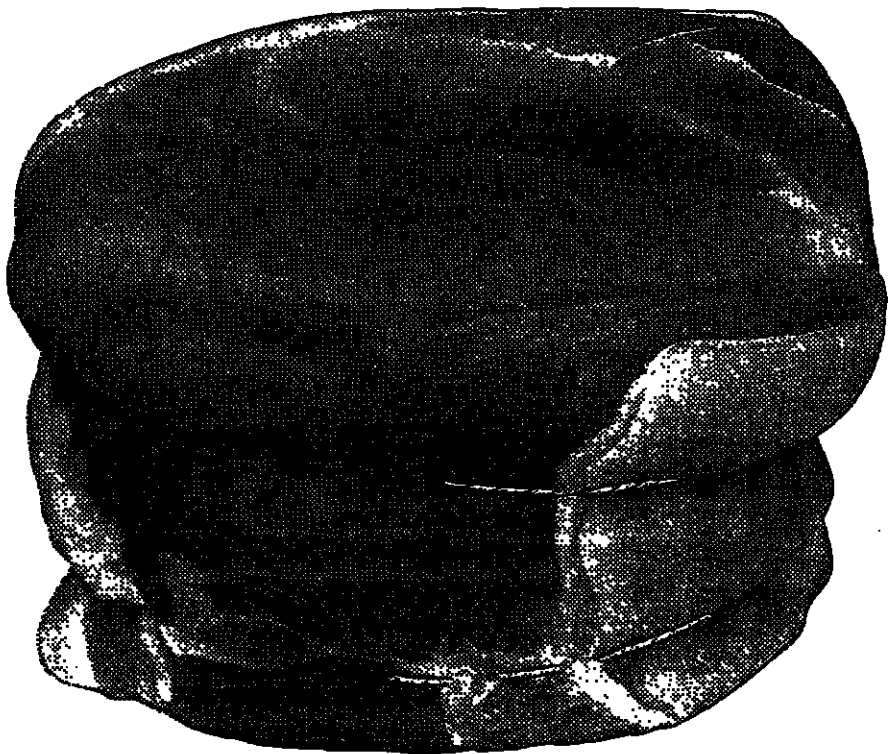
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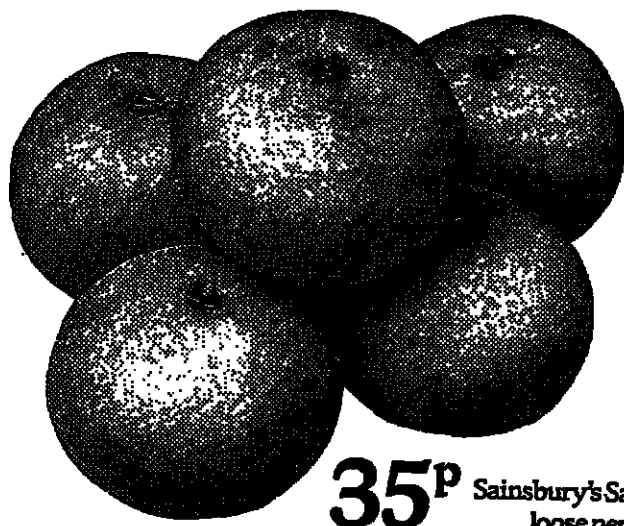
57p
Sainsbury's
Double Cream
10 fl oz



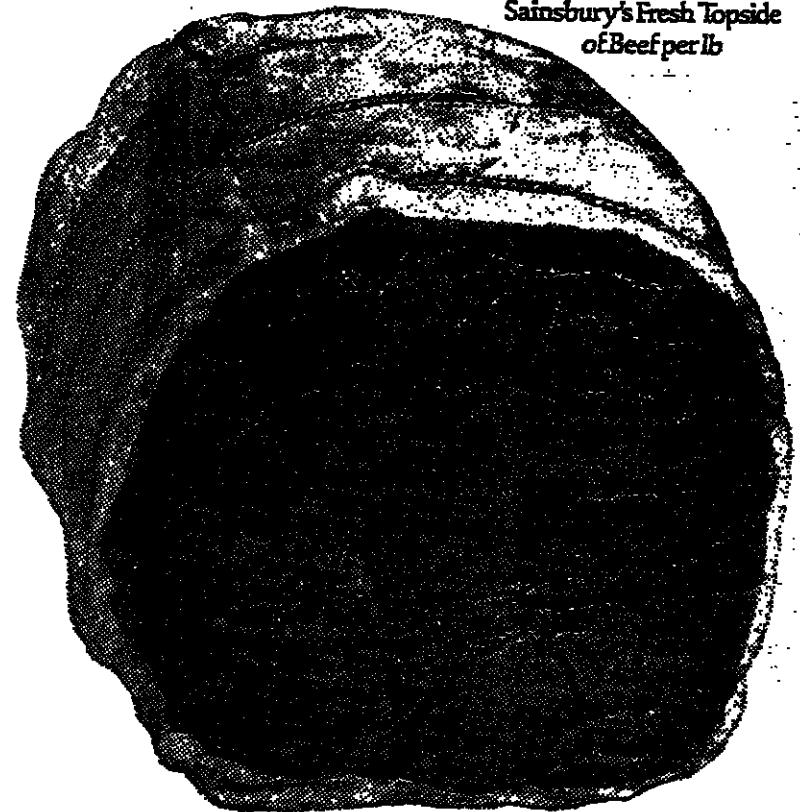
£1.85
Sainsbury's Boneless Half Gammon
per lb



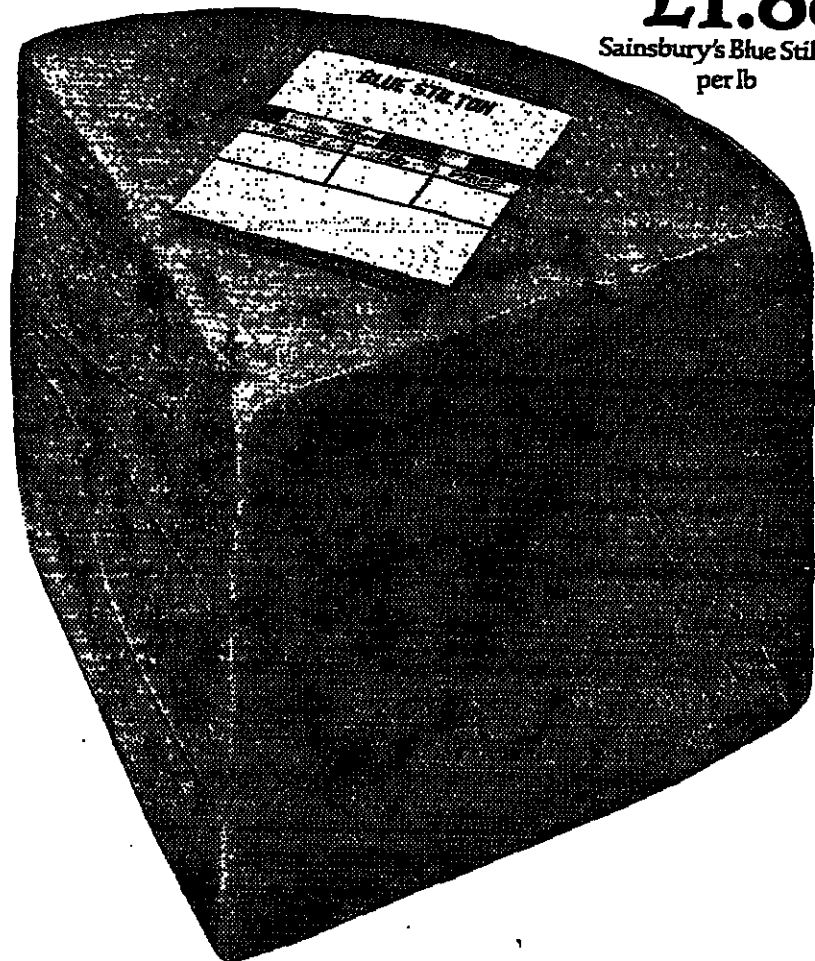
FRESH TURKEYS FOR CHRISTMAS AT OTHER PRICES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER.



35p Sainsbury's Satsumas
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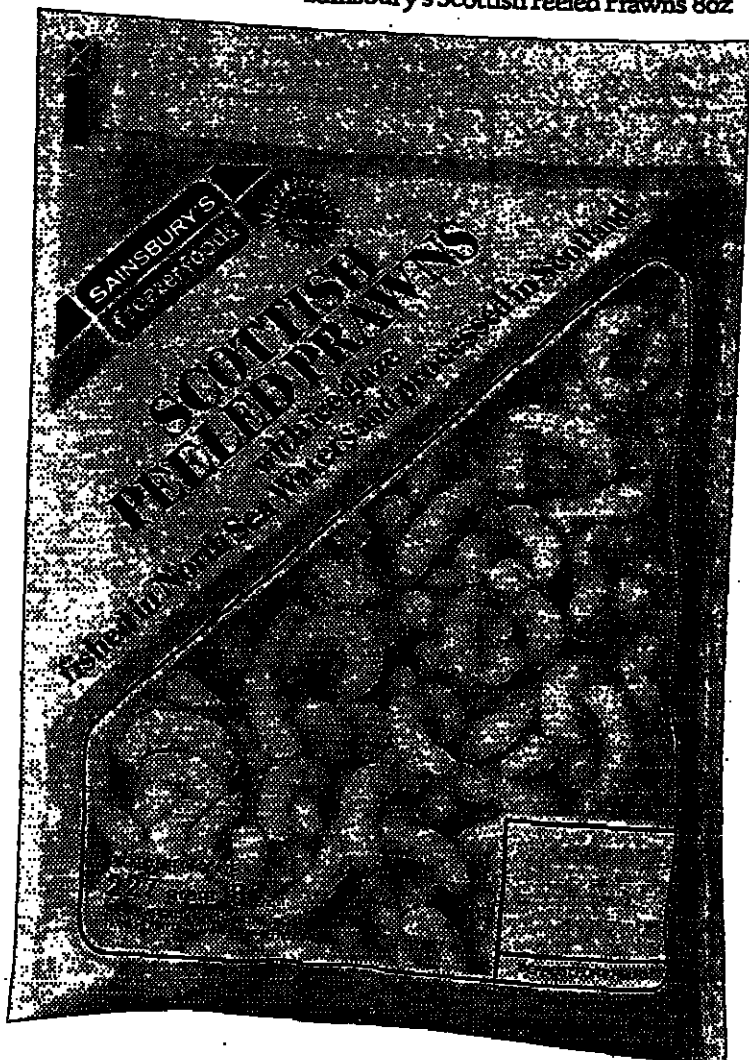
~~£2.46~~ **£1.94**
Sainsbury's Fresh Topside
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£1.88
Sainsbury's Blue Stilton
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Brussels Sprouts loose per lb	35p
Sainsbury's Premium Sausage Meat 1lb pack	95p
Sainsbury's Brussels and Ardennes Pâtés 1lb	£1.49 £1.35
Sainsbury's Brandy Butter 170g	99p
Sainsbury's French Brie per lb	£1.69 £1.48
Sainsbury's Canadian Cheddar fully matured per lb	£1.98 £1.78
Sainsbury's Fresh Pasteurised Milk 4 pints	83p 76p
Sainsbury's English Premium Ham 4oz	75p
Sainsbury's Coleslaw 1kg	£1.19 99p
Sainsbury's Mince Pies x 6 (except deep-filled)	49p

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Sainsbury's Scottish Peeled Prawns 8oz



Good food costs less at Sainsbury's.

Fruit machines are blamed for school terror

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The report, by Dr Emanuel Moran, of the Department of Psychiatry, Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, north London, and chairman of the National Council on Gambling, says people gambling on fruit machines show all the characteristics demonstrated in many learning experiments on animals. Their behaviour is largely not determined by

The report says that of the 30 schools in four London boroughs which were surveyed, 83 per cent said gambling was occurring. Dr Moran said at a press conference that an average of 13 per cent, or about 4,000

children, in the 50 schools were gambling, with perhaps 2,000 or 3,000 playing fruit machines. In the country as a whole tens of thousands must

be playing them. Many of the 4,000 were likely to go on to become compulsive gamblers unless the law was changed. The report says that "amusement with prizes" fruit machines are available in

achines are available to children because of an anomaly in the law. Controls over them must be brought in line with the rest of gambling legislation. Children must not have access to such machines.

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London W1B 5AH

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Yugoslav TV, 100, Regent Street,
London W1B 5AH

[illegible][illegible]

WARRINGTON, 242 Chichester Road, English Avenue.
A Gravelled Arena, Broadfield, Crawley.

WEYBURY
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Hale Heath, 11 Whycliffe Road, Purley.
Dick Merriss, 279 Ashdale Road, North Duxton.
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WEST MIDLANDS
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D. E Gibbs, 555 Pottershill Road, Coventry.
N. H. & J. TV Rentals,
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Mafia ringleaders are jailed for life

Palermo (AP) — Fourteen months after Italy's largest Mafia trial, involving 460 defendants, began in Sicily, a jury yesterday convicted the men considered the main leaders of the organized crime syndicate and jailed 13 of them for life.

Among those jailed for life on the jury's 35th day of deliberation was Michele "the Pope" Greco, described as the head of the Mafia's multi-billion dollar international business operation and leader of the "cupo" or commission, the Palermo-based hierarchy of the organization. Prosecutors had accused commission members of ordering the 17 murders that were among the 90 killings covered in the case.

The jury appeared to have believed the state's case, witnesses, Tommaso Buscetta, who defied the Mafia code of omertà, or silence, to co-operate with the prosecution. Extradited in 1984 from Brazil on drug charges, he was jailed for 3½ years. When the prosecution concluded its case in April it demanded a total of nearly 5,000 years in prison for 411 defendants, including 28 life terms.

Truce in Nicaragua

Managua — Ceasefire negotiations via mediator with the Contras will resume in the Dominican Republic on Monday, President Ortega of Nicaragua announced yesterday (David Gollob writes).

He also declared a unilateral, unconditional truce on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Nicaraguan forces would not engage in any offensive action, and would fire only if they or civilian targets were attacked, he said. Earlier talks ended in stalemate and the negotiations due to resume on Monday were called off after Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Archbishop of Nicaragua, revealed that direct talks between the sides had been agreed.

Spy book blocked

Wellington (AP) — The British Government was granted another court ban yesterday on newspaper publication of a book of the memoirs of the British secret agent Mr Peter Wright, pending an appeal.

The New Zealand High Court extended Tuesday's interim injunction preventing *The Dominion* newspaper here from publishing extracts of the book until the British Government's appeal is heard tomorrow.

The British Government will ask the New Zealand Court of Appeal to block publication of a book by a High Court judge, Mr Justice Gault, yesterday when publication of *Spycatcher* in New Zealand.

Township police shot

Johannesburg — Gunmen in the black township of Nyanga near Cape Town, shot dead a black "special constable" and wounded two others in an attack on five constables, police reported in their daily bulletin yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes). They also reported finding the bodies of three unidentified black men stabbed to death in the Kalkbani and Bantura townships near Pietermaritzburg, Natal, where scores of people have died recently in fierce fighting between rival black political groups.

Penalty for suttee

Delhi (Reuters) — The upper house of the Indian Parliament yesterday approved unanimously the death penalty for assisting the suttee, a Hindu custom of widow's self-immolation on her husband's funeral pyre. Legislation had already been passed by the more powerful lower house.

The measure also imposed prison sentences of up to seven years for glorifying suttee. Women trying to commit suttee face six months' imprisonment.

EEC fish accord

After 29 days of Brussels talks on the European Economic Community's fisheries policy, Mr. John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, yesterday described the result as a "very satisfactory" agreement. (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

The Commission has agreed the catch allowed for 26 species of fish in British waters, which will be held in the quota before the season starts. UK representatives lobbied the talks.

Veto on black donor

Cape Town (AP) — Professor Christian Barnard, left, vetoed a black donor's heart for the world's first heart transplant 20 years ago, on a white man, the surgeon said.

The surgeon, who said the donor was a black man, believed that the donor was a communist.

He said the donor was a black man, believed that the donor was a communist.

Democrats in disarray as Hart tries comeback

From Christopher Thomas Washington

As Republicans plotted, the Democratic Party was bitterly angry yesterday over Mr Gary Hart's surprise re-entry into the US presidential race. His move is certain to prolong the nomination battle and could lead to deadlock at the Democratic convention next summer.

As he kissed children and posed with Santa Claus in an attempt of campaigning in New Hampshire and Maine, he adamantly refused to discuss the scandal that brought down his earlier campaign in April. But a new sex scandal is ready to emerge.

Attention focused yesterday on Mr Hart's motives for getting back into the contest. Friends and political allies said he was frustrated at being on the sidelines and torn with doubt.

about the wisdom of his decision to pull out of the race because of the scandal over his relationship with Ms. Donna Rice.

Some observers suspect money is a main motive. The Federal Election Commission is studying the campaign for giving Mr Hart's campaign about \$1 million (\$384,235) in matching funds that he had qualified for before he abandoned the race. Commission officials said it looked likely that he would qualify. He still has \$1.1 million in debts from his abortive 1984 campaign and owes \$53,000 from his last attempt.

Mr Hart plans a team campaign, on the lines of the Rev Jesse Jackson's shoe-string bid. He will get national coverage in televised debates and has the advantage of being better known than his Democratic rivals, and therefore more newsworthy. But the news may not be to his liking.

The *Washington Post* has a big file of unpublished material on Mr Hart, much of it supplied by a private detective who was working for a Washington man who suspected his wife was having an affair. Mr Hart was trailed last year by the detective from noon on Saturday, December 20, until 8 am the next day. The newspaper has two photographs showing Mr Hart leaving the woman's home, with the woman standing on the front step. It has interviewed the woman, who has indirectly confirmed the relationship on condition she is not named.

So far *The Washington Post* has decided not to run the story. The former senator knows what the paper knows — the newspaper presented him with the material hours before he pulled out of the race in the spring.

Apart from a long holiday in the

Irish Republic, Mr Hart has been making a sizeable income from speech-making, commanding \$10,000 a time. But the audiences have started to become small. As a presidential contender, he can demand high fees.

Some pollsters predict that he will surge to the front initially but will fall back in the longer run. Few political analysts give him much chance of getting the Democratic nomination. In a poll in New Hampshire, 53 per cent of voters said he should not have re-entered the race.

But in another poll of 298 registered Democrats, conducted for *USA Today* and Cable News Network in the hours after his announcement, Mr Hart was the choice of 29 per cent, making him the front-runner. Such polls are notoriously inaccurate.

It is not clear what Mr Hart

intends to do in the Iowa caucus on February 8, the first caucus battle for the 1988 presidential race. It takes immense organization and large amounts of money to fight the Iowa contest, neither of which Mr Hart has. New Hampshire is a different kind of battle and he could make an impact there on February 16.

Democratic reaction was almost universally hostile. Mr John Anderson, the Georgia Democratic chairman, said people "think he's taken leave of his senses". Mr Paul Kirk, the party's chairman, said it was "a big story for a day" but would not have much long-term impact.

Senator Paul Simon, a Democratic presidential contender, reflecting a widely held fear, said that he hoped Mr Hart's re-entry would not trivialize the Democrats' campaign.

Leading article, page 17

Troops ordered to avoid confrontation after soldier is stabbed in neck

Big turnout by Israeli Army brings lull in Gaza violence

Jerusalem (AP) — Israeli troops were ordered to avoid confrontation after a soldier was stabbed in the neck in the Gaza Strip yesterday. He was the first Israeli to be wounded in the present wave of unrest sweeping the occupied territories, which has now lasted for eight days.

Overall, however, the obvious presence of many more troops in the streets and the use of a water cannon borrowed from the Jerusalem police succeeded in reducing the level of violence, despite widespread resentment after Tuesday's events in which five Palestinians were killed by Israeli bullets.

It was as though yesterday was a rest day after testing the emotions of Tuesday, when

Rachaya, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli troops pushed 1.2 miles into Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley for the second time in two days yesterday, clashing with pro-Iranian guerrillas. One Hezbollah (Party of God) fighter was killed and two were wounded. The offensive took place at Maydoun.

Feelings ran so high that a 17-year-old girl actually dropped dead during the funeral of a young man from her home town of Beit Hanan who had been shot dead by troops.

There were, nevertheless, several shooting incidents yesterday. In Jubayla camp, two people were wounded including a girl aged nine. Two others were shot in Naserat, including a youth who was paralysed by a bullet wound. Three more were shot at Rafah when troops opened fire after the soldier was stabbed.

Generally, however, most of the shooting incidents were suffering from wounds which are not life-threatening. One Palestinian, who had been shot in the stomach, had his stomach



A Palestinian, holding his stomach in pain, being led away from Israeli soldiers in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis yesterday. He had been beaten for refusing to dismantle a barricade blocking roads used by fellow Arabs travelling to work in Israel.

Media under siege in the image war

By Ian Murray

It was a great pity that the eight-week Israeli television strike was over, Yehuda Litani, the Middle Eastern editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, lamented the other day.

If the stoppage had continued, then viewers could have seen pictures of what was happening in Gaza only by watching Jordanian programmes, and then it would have been possible to blame it all on "Arab propaganda". But Israeli television has delivered vivid images which leave no doubt in anyone's mind that brutality has often been the order of the day. Right-wing politicians such as Mr Ariel Sharon have accused the television of "blowing up" the events.

But they have found no support for their interpretation from the Israeli press. All newspapers have been carrying substantial reports of what is going on, with witnesses' accounts of events, including beatings by Israeli security forces.

Haaretz, the main independent newspaper, commented: "As time passes, the hostility of the residents of the territories toward Israel, especially that of the younger generation, intensifies, their hatred for Israeli rule deepens, and their aspiration to free themselves from it grows." The newspaper added that "until the public and its leaders understand the close connection between an agreed-on settlement with our neighbours on the

problem of the territories and what is taking place in the territories now, the issue will not be removed from our national agenda".

But the Israeli public has been brought up to fear that all Palestinians are potential, if not actual, "terrorists". The two words are frequently interchangeable in news reporting. After the recent hang-glider attack on northern Israel by "terrorists", Israeli radio reported that hundreds of "terrorists in Lebanon" had left their "terrorist camps" to hide in the fields for fear of Israeli reprisals.

Yesterday there was instant condemnation by political leaders of the "terrorist" who stabbed a soldier. There is much wider public sympathy for the behaviour of Israeli troops and police in having to deal with rioting "terrorists" than for the motivation of the people in the camps.

Essentially, Israel and Gaza are a world apart — although the drive from Jerusalem to the Strip takes scarcely an hour. The 10-year-olds in the camps have no relationship with the 10-year-olds in Jerusalem, who are this week celebrating the children's favourite holiday of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights.

Mr Yitzhak Shamiel, the Prime Minister, has given a warning that "every photo or TV film showing a riot does Israel damage". He has denied that he wants to keep journalists out of the

occupied territories, unless to protect their personal safety. This point of view gained ground this week after three foreign journalists were injured by Palestinian demonstrators.

Inside the Knesset (Parliament), the left wing has been angered by what is going on. Mr Yair Tsafron, a member of Mapam — the United Workers' Party — said: "The Jewish people, victims of the worst negation of human rights ever known to mankind, cannot keep silent in the face of the attack on human rights now taking place in the territories." But Mr Michael Eitan, of the much larger Likud faction, accused the left of ignoring reality. The defence forces were handling the situation with kid gloves, he told MPs.

With a natural sympathy for its own troops that would seem to be the feeling of the majority of Israelis, Mr Avi Pazner, Mr Shamiel's media adviser, said in a radio interview yesterday: "I don't think that any of us is satisfied with the picture being presented both here and abroad."

It had been decided that, in future, the security forces would decide on the access the media had to what was going on — both to protect the journalists and to make sure that they did not disturb the security forces. A two-minute television clip showing only stone-throwing and burning tyres certainly created a mistaken impression of what was going on, he added.

Chirac's popularity boosted by hostage deal with Iran

With a jump of no less than eight points in his personal popularity, M. Jacques Chirac, leader of the French right, has begun to reap the harvest of his Government's controversial deal with Iran for the release of two French hostages.

Not since the 1960s has M Chirac enjoyed anything like this level of approval rating, reported yesterday in the newspaper *Le Quotidien de Paris*. The poll received another welcome boost with the finding, in the same poll, that Chirac had lost almost as much ground over the past month.

But as a result, there is a lot more support for the latest *Le Figaro*. Despite M Chirac's rally, 40 per cent of those polled still considered he was not doing a good job. In contrast, M Mitterrand was apparently able to overcome the "hostage factor" with a 2

point jump in his popularity, according to the poll.

Chirac's popularity was boosted by the deal with Iran for the release of two French hostages. The deal was controversial, but it has won Chirac a lot of support. The poll showed that Chirac's approval rating had risen by eight points, while Mitterrand's had fallen by two points. This was a significant change, especially for Chirac, who had been losing ground in the polls for some time.

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Tehran 'does not want fight with US'

By Our Foreign Staff

Iran had no intention of becoming embroiled in a war with the United States, Ayatollah Khomeini said yesterday. He said the Islamic Republic would not fight with the US unless it was provoked.

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opposition politically, and will exert pressure with whatever levers we have."

But the Iranian Speaker emphasized that Iran would not forget who invited the US military presence into the region and promised that they (referring to Kuwait) would not be left alone.

Asked about using Iran's influence to help free the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, who has been held hostage in Beirut since January, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani said: "We have declared we would mediate for those countries who are our friends or have no hostility against us. But with the British this does not seem to be the case."

He noted in Monday's

interview that France, under its Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, had been trying to improve relations with Iran. If

Iran's Interior Minister, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, said on Tehran radio that elections will be held on April 8, creating the nine-year-old Islamic republic's third parliament. The opposition Freedom Movement vowed to boycott the vote, unless it can resume publication of its daily.

successful, it could encourage the British to adopt a similar approach.

But Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani doubted that Britain had any intention of moving in this direction. "They are

acting wickedly even now," he said.

He also dismissed as "propaganda" Western newspaper reports that Ayatollah Khomeini was seriously ill.

Referring to an alleged incident involving an Iran Air flight at Heathrow airport, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani accused the airport authorities of entering the aircraft forcibly with dogs for an inspection and of insulting the passengers.

An airport spokesman confirmed the presence of an Iran Air flight at Heathrow, but denied that the alleged incident took place.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani's speech was seen in Whitehall as an open admission of support for hostage-takers and

further evidence that Iran will do nothing to help obtain the release of British captives without being given something in return.

The speech reinforced British determination neither to make deals nor to hold talks with parties which might want to strike a deal.

The British view is that if Tehran has the power to obtain the release of British hostages, it should use it without looking for a trade-off. While Britain would like better relations, it considers that Tehran has only itself to blame for the low ebb to which they have sunk.

A Whitehall source confirmed that an Iranian aircraft was searched recently, as Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani's speech implied.

Britons drag their feet over Euro-rule

By Michael Dynes

Underpinned by the impending bankruptcy of the European Community, and the seemingly irreversible growth of EEC betterment and wine lakes, almost half of the people of Europe yesterday approved of proposals designed to inaugurate a genuine pan-European government.

According to the latest public opinion survey, conducted by the European Commission and published today, 49 per cent of Europeans are in favour of granting the European Parliament the power to pass laws that will apply directly to all members of the European Community.

The survey, one of a series of public opinion polls conducted by the Commission, known as Euro-barometers, showed that 57 per cent of Belgians, 59 per cent of the French, and 69 per cent of Italians endorsed proposals to grant the European Parliament new law-making powers.

Protection of the environment, however, came top of the list in Denmark

Germany, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, while security was seen as more important in Britain and France.

Of those who favour granting increased executive authority to Strasbourg, the vast majority believes that full political union should proceed rapidly, regardless of those member states who are opposed to it — even if such action would compel them to leave the European Community.

Concomitantly, those member states opposed to full political union but who want to remain in the framework of the Community would prefer that such initiatives were postponed, if not abandoned altogether.

The survey also showed that a majority of Europeans approved of the proposal for the new European Parliament, to be elected in 1989, to begin work on drafting a constitution for a

STRASBOURG: The European Parliament voted yesterday to take the 12 EEC members to court to force them to agree on a budget for 1988 (AP reports).

In a resolution adopted by 279 votes to eight, the Parliament said it "thoroughly deplores" the governments' failure to draw up a budget and instructed its president to commence legal action.

The Parliament also expressed "profound concern" that, as a result, the EEC faces a serious financial crisis.

In a related development, the EEC Court of Auditors has reported that the 12-nation trading bloc is facing a deficit of about 34 billion European Currency Units (£23.2 billion).

Race killers jailed for 15 years

From Our Own Correspondent Paris

Thirty-three months after a young immigrant from Morocco was shot and killed in the street, a trial that laid bare the harsh and unforgiving light on racial tensions in France ended yesterday in Nice.

The facts of the case were never in doubt: the two accused, Yves Podolski and Francis Piovani, confessed to the crime almost immediately and pleaded guilty in court and after little more than a day's hearing, they were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment each.

in which Aziz Madak, aged 28, was murdered in the town of Menton, and the motivation of the two men (both white) which had made this case the focus of national attention.

The court was told that Piovani, aged 30, was unemployed, an alcoholic on a broken family. Podolski, now 29, had seen his wife walk out after losing an arm in an operation for cancer. Both men had been drinking heavily before the crime.

The impetus seems to have been a quarrel with some young Arabs they saw talking with a teenage white girl. After hard words were ex-

changed, the two went for a last drink to Podolski's flat, where he kept a collection of guns. There they were seized by the idea of "lightening some Arabs" and set out on a motorcycle with a 22-calibre to have their fun.

Encountering a group of coloured immigrants, Piovani fired seven shots at random, killing Aziz and wounding a youth from Martinique. To the police, who soon picked them up, the two men announced: "We don't like Arabs."

As sentence was passed, Piovani, until then mute, burst into tears, asking "fraternité from everyone".

MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES. THE NEW PRELUDE FROM £11,090 TO £14,850. PRICES INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUDE DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD TAX. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. HONDA (UK) LIMITED, POWER ROAD, CHISWICK, LONDON W4 5Y.

Genuine firsts are few and far between in the motoring world.

Small wonder, then, that the new Honda Prelude 4WS 2.0i-16 caused something of a sensation even before its official launch in October.

The reason for all the fuss is that, in a world full of cars steered by the two front wheels, Honda have developed the first car steered by all four wheels.

It may sound complex but, as the diagram shows, it's designed to make the driver's life a great deal simpler.

When the driver makes only subtle steering movements such as when driving at high speed, all four wheels turn in the same direction.

This makes the car highly responsive and vastly improves handling, particularly when changing lanes or negotiating bends.

As June's Performance Car magazine put it: "As soon as you start to drive a 4WS Prelude you notice the difference. Straight away you notice that the car responds much more quickly to steering movements. The overall feeling is of safer, more responsive handling with better roadholding."

But if the steering is impressive on the open road, it's truly extraordinary in sharp turns or really tight corners.

Here, where the driver is required to turn the steering wheel through a greater angle, the rear wheels do something quite remarkable.

As the diagram shows, they actually turn in the opposite direction to the front wheels.

This makes manoeuvring much easier.

As September's Motor magazine discovered: "...one can feel the rear wheels helping the 4WS car round the turns."

In fact, the minimum turning radius is reduced to such an extent that drivers will occasionally find themselves making U-turns where previously 3-point turns were necessary.

And, almost equally as satisfying, gliding effortlessly into even the tightest parking spaces.

Not that any great exertion is required to pull off these manoeuvres.



At high speed, when steering adjustments are subtle, the front wheels and rear wheels turn in the same direction.

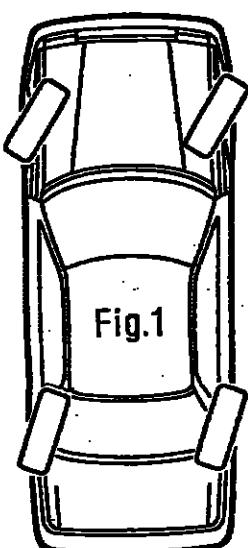


Fig.1

At slower speeds, when the turns are more pronounced, the rear wheels turn in the opposite direction to the front wheels.

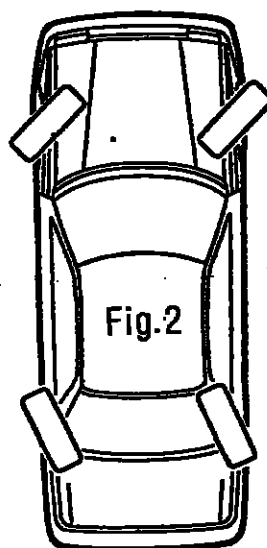


Fig.2

The angles of the front and rear wheels have been exaggerated to demonstrate more clearly how the 4WS system works.



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In addition to four-wheel steering, the new Prelude comes equipped with Honda's speed-sensitive power steering.

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Indeed, so revolutionary is its four-wheel steering, it's easy to forget that the 1988 Prelude is an important new model in its own right.

What was always a sleek, elegant car has now been refined into a classic sports coupé that is both longer and lower than its '87 version.

To the observer, it's one of those cars that looks fast even when it's standing still.

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Honda have drawn on their immensely successful Formula One racing experience to develop a potent 2-litre, 16-valve engine that will propel the Prelude from 0-60 mph in under 8 seconds*.

Also born and bred on the race track was the all-round double wishbone suspension.

And Honda's new anti-lock braking system, or ALB II, gives this red-blooded sports coupé precise, powerful control during an emergency stop or when braking in slippery conditions.

Should you be interested in buying a 1988 Prelude, the range starts at £11,090, moving up to £14,100 for the four-wheel steer model (or £14,850 with automatic transmission).

It probably won't surprise you to learn that the anticipation which preceded the launch of the new Prelude has, in turn, led to considerable advance demand.

So, while we're busy singing its praises we must, in all fairness, point out that there are only a limited number immediately available.

Should you find yourself standing in line on a waiting list, we apologise.

But for those of you who hold out, patience will have not one, but two rewards.

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PHILLIPS & DREW

West German plea to Thatcher for defence sympathy

From Richard Owen, Bonn

As the West German Cabinet yesterday debated defence cuts, Chancellor Kohl's arms control adviser called on Mrs Thatcher to "show more sensitivity" on West German defence concerns.

The defence spokesman for the ruling Christian Democrats, Herr Volker Ruhe, predicted there would be a Soviet propaganda offensive aimed at West German anxieties in "the new political and psychological situation" created by the INF Treaty. Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is expected in Bonn early next year to prepare a summit meeting between Mr Gorbachev and Chancellor Kohl.

Herr Ruhe gave a warning that West Germany and other Nato countries would find it difficult to maintain, let alone increase, their present levels of conventional defence spending. He said that Nato was mistaken if it believed that the "twin-track" approach, successfully used to reach a deal with Moscow over intermediate nuclear missiles, would work in the case of conventional forces.

He told *The Times* that, unless the problem of short-range missiles was addressed urgently as part of a comprehensive post-INF package, which also included a clear mandate on conventional forces, the consensus in favour of nuclear deterrence would erode in West Germany, leading to a loss of public support for atomic weapons in the alliance as a whole.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, had talks this week with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn on the Washington summit and the subsequent Nato council in Brussels. Mr Shultz made it clear that short-range missiles with a range of less than 300 miles were further down Washington's list of priorities than strategic weapons, conventional imbalances and chemical weapons — a position that was fully supported by Mrs Thatcher.

Herr Ruhe said that West Germany's "special situation" had been aggravated by INF.

France, which is committed to military co-operation with Bonn, increasingly understood West German concerns. But Britain, "and especially the Prime Minister", seemed to show "deeper understanding" of the risks Bonn faced. He said: "You have to imagine how you would feel if the East-West divide ran through Birmingham." The 4,000 warheads left after the INF Treaty could fall only on German soil if launched, Herr Ruhe said. "Some people in the West" objected to West Germany's fellow feeling for East Germany and argued that East German targets were within the Warsaw Pact ambit and therefore legitimate. That was

"very insensitive", Herr Ruhe said.

Bonn has asked Nato to define precisely the absolute minimum of nuclear and conventional forces needed for European defence after the INF deal. "The feeling in West Germany is that there are far too many nuclear-capable artillery pieces," Herr Ruhe said that 4,000 was not "a sacred number". He added that it was not acceptable to assume that any weapons not included in the treaty could be modernized automatically.

Herr Ruhe said that he was not referring to Anglo-French ideas on new stand-off missiles for aircraft, which were both legitimate and welcome.

But insistence on keeping the short-range, land-based missiles in Germany risked a further increase in West German criticism of the very principle of nuclear deterrence, which for the first time was coming from the political right as well as the left.

He said: "Nato cannot say, as Mrs Thatcher says, we will address this problem once the conventional imbalances are removed. By then it will be too late." Herr Ruhe said that Western leaders had to "have the guts" to explain to their people the need not only to keep US troops in Europe, but also to maintain a defined level of nuclear weapons. A level had to be found short of de-nuclearization but below the "firebreak" provided by the short-range missiles.

No giving way, page 16

Akhromeyev says West is cheating

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Union's Chief of General Staff, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, yesterday accused the West of undermining the INF Treaty.

In a *Pravda* interview, Marshal Akhromeyev, who is also First Deputy Defence Minister, said that Nato's plans to compensate for the "nuclear gap" left by the INF missile cuts ran "counter to the spirit of the INF Treaty".

He added: "The danger of this additional armament is obvious. If it is not stopped, it

can lead to another round of the arms race and reduce the effectiveness of the treaty signed."

Marshal Akhromeyev, who took part in last week's Washington negotiations, also attacked the US position on strategic weapons, accusing the US of seeking "to break or weaken" the link established by Moscow between cuts in strategic arms and preservation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Confirming negotiations for

a 50 per cent reduction of US and Soviet long-range weapons, the Americans wanted ceilings on missiles to be fixed "according to their proposals", and at the same time were insisting on keeping submarine-launched cruise missiles out of the talks, he said.

He also touched on difficulties on conventional forces in Central Europe and talks for a convention banning chemical weapons and eliminating stockpiles.

Kenyans flee border conflict



Kenyans leaving their homes at Busia, close the Ugandan border, where there have been two days of fighting between Ugandan troops and Kenyan police. The clashes started when Ugandan soldiers

crossed the border in pursuit of rebels they believed were hiding in refugee camps (Alexander Johnson writes). The Kenyans responded with gunfire and moved about 2,000 refugees from the camps. At least eight Ugandan soldiers were killed. The fighting stopped yesterday as President Museveni of Uganda called on the Organization of African Unity to mediate.

Romanian food shortages

Ceausescu promises meat tomorrow

By Mary Dejevsky

President Ceausescu of Romania closed a three-day Communist Party conference yesterday with promises that the food shortages which have plagued the country in recent years would soon be over.

Mr Ceausescu pledged that next year would see a significant improvement in meat supplies. Nearly 50 per cent more beef would be available for sale than this year, he said, and everyone would be guaranteed an average of 30 grams of poultry per week.

Romanians regard meat, which has been almost unobtainable in winter, as a measure of the country's well-being. Dissatisfaction over the inadequacy of supplies has been increased by the belief, current among Romanians, that up to two-thirds of domestic meat production is sold to the Soviet Union and to Arab countries for hard currency. Mr Ceausescu has made the repayment of his country's foreign debt a priority.

The Romanian leader also

announced a change in the food distribution system. Production and distribution, he said, would in future be organized on a district basis, with each district being allowed to retain any production in excess of the planned quota. The corollary is likely to be that each district will

which had to be remedied. He denied, however, that these defects called for any fundamental change in the way the economy was run. In sharp contrast to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's prescription for the Soviet economy, Mr Ceausescu said that Romania needed more "socialist

self against charges which might have been levelled both by his own people and by Moscow, President Ceausescu claimed Romanian living standards were now up to 30 per cent higher than they would have been without the policies he had introduced 20 years ago.

In what appeared to be an attempt to out-Gorbachev Mr Ceausescu, he also insisted that Romania had pioneered such policies as "representative democracy", open government and economic accountability.

Romanians, however, seem less inclined than they were to put up with Mr Ceausescu's fantasies. The first edition of the official party paper, *Scutia*, containing Mr Ceausescu's keynote speech, was reported to have been destroyed by fire. The previous week a statue of Lenin in the capital was damaged by fire, and recent months have seen critical statements by a Central Committee member and by Mr Ion Iliescu, a formerly loyal party writer.

also be responsible for any shortages.

The closing speech was the second by Mr Ceausescu during the conference. In a four-hour keynote address on Monday, the Romanian leader gave an unusually negative account of his country's economy. He spoke of the complexity of the internal situation and of shortcomings — including statistical dishonesty and favouritism —

ownership", more ideological work and more direct party involvement in economic work. There also had to be cuts in investment, and consumption would have to be reduced (from what is already a very low level). As a sweetener, he held out the prospect of a 10 per cent pay increase for all to be introduced over the next two years.

As though defending him-

Aborigine poet to return her MBE

Sydney (Reuters) — The Aboriginal poet Kath Walker said yesterday she would change her name and return her MBE award in protest at celebrations to mark 200 years of white settlement in Australia.

Walker, aged 67, said she would hand back the award to the Queensland Governor, Sir Walter Campbell, and change her name to Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

She urged other Australian Aboriginals to discard their European names.

Tamil killings

Colombo (Reuters) — Tamil Tiger separatists raided the eastern village of Devagoddala in Sri Lanka, killing 10 civilians including a family of five.

Destroyer fire

Remes, France (AFP) — The West German guided missile destroyer *Mecklenburg* resumed its voyage in the English Channel after the crew put out an engine room fire.

Fog tragedy

Delhi (AFP) — At least eight people were killed and 57 were injured when a passenger train was hit by a railway engine and a goods train in dense fog in northern Punjab state.

Ethics award

Rome (AP) — Sir Isaiah Berlin, the British intellectual, historian and philosopher, was named the first winner of the Agnelli International Prize for Ethics.

Executive fine

Singapore (Reuters) — Donald Macdonald, former manager of the Royal Insurance company's Singapore office, has been fined nearly \$50,000 for cheating his company by inflating prices of company cars and the rent of a penthouse.

Killer typhoon

Manila (Reuters) — Typhoon Phyllis swept across the central Philippines, sinking a ferry and drowning 11 people, including two local election candidates.

New embassy

Amman (Reuters) — Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan formally opened a new British Embassy building here.

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Accusation of ballot fraud by Korean opposition

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Not so, said Chamae, estimated the value of his house in Tokyo and a house in Osaka at 3,750 million yen. Not his, whose responsibility it was to "ways to control land prices," monthly salary, including housing, 1 million yen, or about £100,000.

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134.4 million yen. He has a salary of 1.2 million yen and bonus of 2.35 million yen.

...this being pointed out by foreign
in *Fortune*, the American business
magazine, declared the discovery of
Chinese billionaires earlier this year.
Magazine's Tokyo bureau received news
from the Japanese media expressing
pleasure at the story.

Past masters



foreigners:
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As prices for Impressionist paintings soar to new heights, the Old Masters are beginning to look like bargains

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Old Master paintings may be to Impressionism what Bach is to pop — offering much more lasting fascination. But as things are going, seems that Impressionism is destined for the households of the future, and Old Masters our museums.

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Priest linked with Singapore plotters resigns

Not so, said Channel estimated the value of his home in Tokyo and a house in western Japan at 3,750 million yen. Not bad, whose responsibility it is "ways to control land price monthly salary, including 6 million yen, or about £6,790 a month, between de-

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being pointed out by foreigners. Fortune, the American business magazine, declared the discovery of 22 billionaires earlier this year than the Tokyo bureau received many in the Japanese media expressing interest at the story.

Japanese 'fat cats' shrug off assets

From David Watts, Tokyo

Not so, said Channel estimated the value of his home in Tokyo and a house in western Japan at 3,750 million yen. Not bad, whose responsibility it is "ways to control land price monthly salary, including 6 million yen, or about £6,790 a month, between de-

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ARTS 2

TELEVISION

Gramsci to Grantham

In Trevor Griffiths's 1970 play *Occupations*, Gramsci declares: "Today, it appears to be the entrepreneurial class that has become a sack of potatoes", glossing Marx's comparison of the proletariat with spuds. The play, though set in the political upheaval of 1920 Turin, was partly Griffiths's reaction to the failure of the revolutionary aspirations of 1968.

It was violently criticized by certain members of the New Left as too pessimistic — the real Gramsci, after all, had not included any "it appears" in his statement. How times have changed.

Channel 4 marked the 50th anniversary of Gramsci's death with two programmes: a documentary biography, *Gramsci — Everything That Concerns People*, with John Sessions playing the Sardinian philosopher in dramatized scenes, and a studio discussion, *Gramsci — Here and Now*.

All those that took part in the discussion appeared to be politically of the left, but the political figure most on their lips was the lady from Grantham whose political contribution as the debate about entrepreneurs and potatoes raged was to be on the wrong side of the British public in an argument about school milk.

Mrs Thatcher was held in grudging admiration as a redoubtable exponent of the Gramscian notion of "hegemony" — use of cultural and moral values to support economic and political power.

Gramsci — Everything That Concerns People did add an interesting personal touch to its historical account by including interviews with former colleagues of the imprisoned thinker.

John Sessions showed his great range as an actor, not by going over the top in every accent known to stage and screen, as in his theatrical lampoon of Napoleon, but by nicely understating his performance. Gramsci's life needs no added drama.

Andrew Hislop

60 years and still in good voice

Singer Elizabeth Welch, subject of a TV documentary, talks about her long career to Fionnuala McHugh

The splendid bouquet in Elizabeth Welch's hall had just arrived from Channel 4. It seemed that a lunch the previous day to mark the departure of Jeremy Isaacs had threatened to turn gloomy until Miss Welch's rendition of a few songs from her repertoire succeeded in uplifting the occasion. Hence the floral tribute "to a wonderful lady". "I thought I'd died when I saw it," the recipient remarked.

Miss Welch, very much alive, laughs frequently. Nearly 60 years after her first professional stage appearance in *Blackbirds* of 1928 in New York, she is still a vibrant performer. In *Keeping Love Alive*, Stephen Garrett and David Robinson's affectionate portrait of a musical legend, she fills the screen with good humour and warmth. Filmed at two performances of her one-woman show at the Almeida Theatre, London, last May and interspersed with personal reminiscences, the programme highlights the capacity for instant intimacy which has become her trademark. That ability to plug immediately into an audience has been a useful legacy from her days in British variety during the Thirties. "They announced you or played your introduction, you walked into a spot and you had to make contact immediately."

Though she still holds an American passport, she has lived in England for 55 years and her accent now is a rare brew of upper-crust British and transatlantic drawl. Her genes, too, are a heady mix of temperament: her mother was Scots-Irish, her father half negro, half American-Indian. When Paul Robeson, with whom she appeared in the 1936 film *Song of Freedom*, gently chided her for not speaking out on behalf of her people, she told him she had too many races to be expected to stand up for them all.

She started out as the "loud alto" in her church choir during the Twenties, irrepressibly laughing her way through weddings and funerals. The original intention was that she would become a social worker, but as a result of an unexpectedly successful audition she found herself in the show *Running Wild* singing the "awful" lyrics of a song in celebration of a new dance craze, the Charleston. Her father, a strict Baptist, disapproved of this career move. "Girlie on the boards, she's doomed," was how he memorably expressed it to her mother. Amidst the film's high-spirited anecdotes, the account of how she left the family forever because of her involvement with theatrical life is told with a sad hesitation impos-



Elizabeth Welch began singing in a church choir, giggling at weddings

sible to convey on the page. In 1931, she appeared in *The New Yorkers* singing "Love for Sale". Cole Porter had originally been exorcised by the critics for attributing the song's sentiments to a young blonde white girl. He left America for Paris in disgust. Elizabeth had already made the song part of her cabaret act in the speak-easies, imbuing it with a particularly haunting fervour, a result of her "soft spot" for the ladies of the night in Montmartre, where she had stayed in 1929 when *Blackbirds* had transferred to Paris. Shortly after *The New Yorkers* opened, Irving Berlin, the director Monty Woolley, and Ray Goetz, the producer came to hear her sing.

sons it taught her. "But it wasn't friendly. I'm a friendly person, I like to make contact. I never went into digs, because I didn't know anybody, so I stayed in hotels and it was very lonely." She was billed as Mistress of Song and swears that someone once overheard two women commenting excitedly on the fact that Miss Welch was kept by a Chinaman.

After the war (during which she performed in Gibraltar with Edith Evans and Michael Wilding), she brought "La Vie en Rose" to London in 1947, having heard Piaf sing it in Paris the previous year. Other shows — *Oranges and Lemons*, *Penny Plain*, *The Crooked Mile* — followed, but in the early Seventies it seemed as though her performing days were to be if not ended, at least curtailed by severe arthritis. Barely able to walk and in pain, she appeared in *Flippin* in 1973, helped on and off stage by the crew and carried through each performance by a mixture of her own determination and adrenalin.

In 1974 she had two hip operations. "When the surgeon saw the X-rays he couldn't" (a helpless gust of laughter) "he couldn't believe it, the bones were so rotten. I bounced in three months later — I'm a quick healer, thank God — and he said wait another nine months and you'll feel a new woman. And he was dead right."

With the revival in her health came an apparently bizarre opportunity to sing "Stormy Weather" as a finale to Derek Jarman's *The Tempest* in 1979. That was responsible for introducing her to a whole new generation of fans. "In the last few years the thrill and the emotion when these young people come back and want to shake my hand is greater than any crown of glory," she said.

Though she mourns the passing of the old nightclubs, there are few other regrets. There was a time when she would have liked to have had children, "but then I didn't know I was going into this business." She married a musician on her 18th birthday, against her family's wishes, a relationship which lasted five months. "I've been in love many times in my life but as one gets older the ends are not so tragic — they just fade away." The words of every song she's ever sung remain, however. All her life she's been praised for the clarity of her diction and going round her house she still sings the religious music she learned as a child on 63rd Street. "It might be a hymn or an anthem from those choir days, anything, because you don't forget the lyrics."

● *Keeping Love Alive* can be seen on Channel 4 next Tuesday, December 22, at 8.30pm.

OPERA

Gypsies with little charm

Carmen
Grand Theatre,
Leeds

As yet the aspirations of Opera North's new Carmen are more impressive than its achievements. Possibly frightened off by realistic productions elsewhere both on stage and on screen, Richard Jones offers, no, not a used-car lot, but an Expressionist version of Bizet's opera. The fact is that the 1830s Bizet was concerned with, and the spirit is that of *Les Femmes d'Alger* rather than *Misère*.

Nigel Lowery has created brutal sets for a squalid tale of infatuation and knife rather than one of romantic passion. The soldiers quartered in Seville peer at the passing trade through and beneath the corrugated iron of their barracks, and Carmen's fellow factory workers appear to be locked in another barracks. Their opening chorus is sung virtually behind bars. The amount of smoke they let rise to the skies should carry not so much a government health warning as a red alert, but the performance of the Opera North chorus in this and the succeeding acts forms the biggest plus mark.

The dressiness soon begins to peel and to create outright dramatic problems. "Take a chair", says Carmen to José before she begins her Act II dance. But the slaver of *Les Femmes d'Alger* has no chairs; in fact he has nothing at all apart from a few unappealing bottles, and is absolutely not the place for a night out in Seville. Act III is played in total gloom and it is a wonder that anyone made out what the cards foretold, while Act IV, apart from a brief ballet during the prelude, was also devoid of bulging glitter.

This gloomy view of affairs must have seeped under the skin of the principals, but even so it was difficult to understand some of Opera North's casting. Cynthia Buchanan gave a bold and extrovert dramatic performance as Carmen, going straight for the groin with either knife or shoe when challenged by males. The dances were accomplished: barefoot for Zuniga (John Hall), with shoes for José. But there was not very much in the voice to suggest that here was a Carmen in the making: fire, aggression and pure sensuality were all lacking.

Marie Slorach's Micaela was even less impressive, dressed up as a dumpy plain Jane with a massive crucifix around her midriff. Her soprano lacked the purity and the clean line which are the first requirements for any Micaela. The sweet child was the inspirational addition of Bizet's librettists, Mathias and Halévy, to Mérimée's story. Richard Jones's addition of José's mother to the Opera North staging was rather less inspirational.

Dennis O'Neill's José would surely have looked better in a different production. The passion was in the voice, notably in a finely delivered "Flower Song", but he tended to behave more like a trusted butler than a corporal in love. It will all doubtless loosen up as the run continues, and Anthony Michaels-Moore, a popular hero with link rings and designer stubble. Goldof-style, is already an accomplished Escamillo.

The conductor, Alexander Rahbari, a new name to me, began at breakneck speed and was not always at one with the excellent chorus Opera North are now fielding. He too needs to discover, like Richard Jones, that there is more to Carmen than blood and bull.

John Higgins

Acting like a proper Charlie

The Foreigner
Albery Theatre

The late Larry Shue — author of *The Nerd*, apparently still running on Broadway — hit on the idea for this, his last play, when visiting Japan. There he found he could get away with the craziest behaviour because the locals put it down to his being foreign.

Squeezed through the creative mangle, Japan becomes a fishing lodge in Georgia, USA, and the foreigner is jolly, lugubrious Nicholas Lyndhurst.

I forget how the play explains why the English Lyndhurst, escaping from an unfaithful wife, should come to be in the Deep South. The venue has to be there because the Ku-Klux-Klan makes an appearance in Act 2, electrically controlled torches and all. But I go too far. Back in Act 1 we have heard that Charlie, the Lyndhurst character, is timid and tongue-tied, hates being addressed by

strangers and proposes to avoid conversation by pretending he knows no English.

The guests in the lodge thereupon treat him as if he were a pot plant, which allows him to overhear wicked plots being hatched against the dear old lady in charge of the place, the troubled girl due to marry the chief villain, and her slowish brother who will be cheated out of his inheritance.

Finding, like other heroes before him, that a false identity allows the true self to take heart, Lyndhurst becomes Fairy Godbrother to the exploited and routs the Klan in a manner that is, it must be admitted, ingenious.

That praise having grudgingly been said, along with a more generous tribute to the scene where Lyndhurst is taught English by a delighted young brother (William Hope), there is little left to give any thanks for.

As in *The Nerd*, the author likes to find humour in humiliation, and here we watch Lyndhurst being mocked for looking dumb later mocking the mockers.

Considered as Rodney's dream of revenge on Del Boy, it is diverting to hear unfamiliar fluted vowels emerge from his familiar Agneczek features. But to hear this, alas, you will have to sit through the play.

Jeremy Kingston

THEATRE

Fear and loathing at the office

Speculators
The Pit, Barbican

Office routine, hitherto regarded as unstageable, came to dramatic life this year with the theatrical debut of the Stock Exchange. This virgin subject, first revealed by Caryl Churchill in *Serious Money*, is now further explored in Tony Marchant's new play, which fully confirms the original discovery that the sight of a crowd of dealers in full cry makes for a lively spectacle, whether or not you understand a single word of what they are saying.

Speculators also recaps Miss Churchill's other points: the gentlemanly monopoly on trading was dealt a mortal blow by the Big Bang, and that the practice of dealing should be listed as an addictive drug.

Mr Marchant brings on a similar group of former dispatch riders and telex operators, all with quick reflexes and the killer instinct once they get in front of a VDU. They pile up millions in fairy gold and charge into the privileged enclaves formerly reserved for their class enemies.

The big difference between the two plays is that where



Liquid lunch: Gary Love, as a young dealer, gets ready to drink to his success in the City

Miss Churchill gave an exhilarating picture of this financial wonderland, leaving spectators to judge it, Mr Marchant moralizes and wags his finger.

The trouble is that his moral qualms are undercut by fascination; with the result that he has produced a broken-backed story consisting of alternate episodes of glamour and retribution. His main setting is the London foreign exchange of an American trading bank; and as the play opens with a prologue showing the American boss trying to pull a fast one on the Bank of England, his employees are under a shadow from the start.

The crunch duly comes; but as that would have brought the

play to an end, the threat quietly melts away.

The dominant figure in the exchange is Graham, a self-confessed former delinquent played by Gerard Murphy at his most intimidatingly carnivorous. As cable dealer, he calls the shots for his colleagues — a colourfully assorted group including the statutory career girl (Amanda Harris) and lone public schoolboy (Simon Russell Beale).

Graham, with a neglected Kentish coast house and prodigious alcohol consumption, is clearly piling up trouble. But when he is fired for his falling trade figures, the blow is quite unprepared. You sense the

playwright intervening to give him his come-uppance, rather than the character bringing it on himself.

Others undergo similar humiliations. An office outing to Ascot brings the confessions pouring out: Mr Beale would rather be working as a chef; Miss Harris, toying with a Fortnum's hamper, acknowledges that she would rather be having a coddle in the cinema.

Barry Kyle's production presents a surface of hard glittering energy, but affords an unobstructed view of the underlying emotional quagmire.

Irving Wardle

Stars Watermans, Brentford

The end of *Sweeney* at the Menzies, and the *Drama*'s temporary departure from the Barbican repertoire, frees the four RSC players who mounted Stephen Lowe's *Stars* for last September's Early Stages series. The production, by Tom Knight, has now been revived for a short run at Brentford's Riverside Theatre.

The play, dating from 10 years ago, shows the author leaning so hard on the delaying tactics of the short story that the place is half through before there is any sign that its parallel stories will ever come together.

The setting is war time Nottingham, in and around the Essoldo Cinema, shabby house of dreams. The manager's fantasies of himself as Dick Fowell or Bogart carry little conviction, least of all when he conducts an interview with a baffled subterfuge as if she were auditioning for a *Ruby Keeler* musical.

Lowe is on more fruitful ground when exploring the realities of life on the Home Front, the lack of business and the glory of nylon.

Nicholas Collett plays a cautious US airman lured home by an emotionally starved romantic — crisply defined by Rosie Thompson, though years too young to look bloody. The frustrated lives of the two pairs of characters collide on the Essoldo stage, leading to the wistfully deranged ending beloved of films of the period.

Jeremy Kingston

Force without the Police

ROCK

Sting
Wembley Arena

It is not easy to convert supergroup member status into solo sales. Ask Jagger, Mercury, Waters, Plant, Daltrey et al. Yet in only three years, since the unofficial demise of the Police, Sting has gathered an audience as big as that of his former group, and made it look as simple as falling off a log.

At Wembley, he seemed torn between his role as the star at the front and a desire to remain part of the band. Thus, during a 140-minute performance, he tended to keep either a keyboard or a guitar between him and the audience, but without ever abrogating the immense authority which now sits so easily on his shoulders. What is this man's secret?

For one thing, the initial harnessing of a crack team of jazz players to blow through disciplined four-minute ar-

rangements of Sting's intrinsically catchy melodies has enabled his music to mature into an idiosyncratic rock-jazz fusion that sounds neither old hat nor too unfamiliar. However, of that original Blue Turtles team, only the keyboardist Kenny Kirkland and the backing vocalist Dolette McDonald remain; and while the band that opened a five-night residency on Tuesday was stuffed full of old and coming virtuoso types, it lacked the fluency and supple capacity for nonsense of its forerunner. The closing bars of a gratuitously re-arranged "Don't Stand So Close To Me" sounded like *Spinal Tap* in full flow.

The personable power of Sting's delivery, in that peculiar keening register which he has made his own, sustained what was an unimpaired center through recent and favourite material, mostly as written. The only significant aid to presentation was a huge video screen, which relayed crystal clear pictures of the action, but which boasted nothing approaching the sophisticated mixing standards set by Tina Turner's show.

David Sinclair



Sting: maintains a powerful delivery

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Concluding our series on research and prosperity: the fighter in a business suit charged with leading Britain's technology initiative

Sparks from a superconductor

In China earlier this year Sir Francis Tombs, as chairman of Rolls-Royce, met a government minister who, scrupulously, declared that his country was most pleased with the engines it had bought from the company. But, he went on, if further orders were to be placed, the price would have to be lowered.

"Impossible," said Sir Francis. In that case, the minister continued, China would have to consider getting its aero-engines from another source. This, he concluded, would not be a very good idea from the point of view of Rolls-Royce.

"On the contrary," countered Tombs. "I think it would be an excellent idea."

"But why?"

"Because then you would have two sets of engines, and you would be able to see for yourself which are the best."

The story is a small but accurate indicator of Sir Francis's strengths as a negotiator: toughness, humour, diplomacy, and a degree of lateral thinking. He will need all these and more in his new role as chairman of British research and development's latest acronym, Acost (the Advisory Council on Science and Technology).

The brief of this 20-man team of the scientific great and good is to advise the Government on its priorities and on the extent of its involvement in international projects.

Sir Francis, a 63-year-old music lover with a lifetime's experience of civil engineering, has become a sort of superconductor in his own right, for the council is teaming up with the chairman and chief executives of major companies. Just like that, other innovation, he has the ability to keep friction to a minimum. If chairmanship could be seen as iron filings, he has become a highly effective magnet, apart from Acost and Rolls-Royce, he holds the same post with the engineering firm Turner and Newall, and at the Engineering Council, where he has probably done more than any other individual in his two and a half years of office to raise the social acceptability of its calling.

Among his biggest achievements have been to lobby effectively for more engineering places at universities and polytechnics, and to make the council a coherent mouthpiece for its 46 diverse member institutes.

He cuts a compact but impressive figure, a fighter in businessman's clothing. He is, in the admiring words of a loyal associate, a "tough little so-and-so", and never more so than when leading a delegation of engineers for a session with senior Civil Servants, few of whom can match his practical grasp of the subject.

This is hardly surprising. When he left school in Walsall at the age of 16, he went straight to work at the General Electrical Company, later tak-

ing an economics degree in his spare time. He is still occasionally heard to dismiss this with a hint of studied self-devaluation, as something he did merely in order to keep an eye on the accountants.

Yet there is some truth in the remark, for although he is a committed advocate of letting managers have a high level of independent responsibility, he at the same time rigidly enforces the agreed financial constraints.

One of the qualities that makes him seem suited to the demands of the chairmanship is his ability to shuttle between the public and private sectors, although not all the shifts in his career have come at the time he would have chosen. In 1977 he took up Tony Benn's invitation to chair the Electricity Council, a job he was to relinquish three years later on a note of considerable reluctance.

His brief there had been to head an industry radically revamped along the lines laid down in the Plowden report. These, however, were scrapped when the Conservatives took office, in favour of retaining the status quo of 13 area boards and a central council. This was, he said as recently as last year, an act of "management nonsense".

During the 1970s he also had a bitter and very public run-in with Lord Weinstock, from whom he had learnt much over five years at GEC during the previous decade. Weinstock was wrong, he maintained, to support the choice of the American-designed pressurized water reactor for electricity supply. In this, as in most other matters, Tombs has not recanted.

He has hardly needed to. Three months ago, Rolls-Royce, finally reconstituted from its "bust" wreckage, was able to report a pre-tax profit of £60 million for the first six months of the year, £7 million up on 1986. Turnover meanwhile had risen to £899 million, an increase of 15 per cent. Today it has orders worth more than £3 billion.

Tombs acknowledges that credit for the turnaround must go largely to his predecessors. But the means of that recovery bear all the hallmarks of the Tombs style: high spending on increased productivity, sharp and often painful reductions in jobs and, most relevant to his new role, intense concentration on R and D. He will take heart from the fact that by 1989-90 the Government's research budget will have swung in favour of civil expenditure (50.1 per cent) as against defence (49.9 per cent).

Apart from Rolls, two of Tombs's most notable successes were achieved in the wake of his buffeting at Electricity. The major en-

gineering companies Turner and Newall and the Weir pumps group had both been hard hit by the recession. In neither case was the cure easy nor pleasant.

Up went management accountability, down went the payrolls, and out went unwanted businesses. Tombs himself was handsomely rewarded for the T and N recovery, through an arrangement which was worth an estimated £1 million.

The recipe appears deceptively simple. "The thing is," he once said, "to identify simple objectives - profitability is clearly the key one - and go for them."

Married since 1949 to

Marjorie, with whom he has three daughters, he lives in Shipston-upon-Stour in Warwickshire, and is a keen golfer and sailor. Even in his third passion, music, office did not evade him - he was chairman of the Association of British Orchestras for four years until 1986.

His harsh and uncompromising message is that too often in the past the Government's science policies have suffered badly as a result of rivalries between its own departments.

Now that he is presiding at Acost, those jealousies will become ever harder to sustain. Doubtless they will never die, but if his track record is anything to go by, they could be reduced to impotence before the decade is out.

Alan Franks



'The thing to do is identify simple objectives, profitability is the key one, and go for them'



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BIOGRAPHY

1924: Born in Walsall.
Educated, Elmore Green School, Walsall.
1939-45: General Electric, Birmingham.
1946-47: Birmingham electricity department.
1948-57: British Electricity Authority.
1958-67: General manager, GEC Elmhurst, Kent.
1967-68: Director, James Howden, Glasgow.
1969-73: Director, South of Scotland Electricity Board.
1973-74: Deputy chairman of the board.

1974-77: Chairman.
1977-88: Chairman, Electricity Council for England and Wales.
1981-83: Chairman, Weir Group.
1983: Chairman, Turner and Newall.
1985: Chairman of Rolls-Royce, the Engineering Council, and council of the Cranfield Institute of Technology; vice-president, Engineers for Disaster Relief.
1987: Chairman, Advisory Council on Science and Technology.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1441

ACROSS
1 Weaver (6)
4 Abstract (6)
9 Dramatic scene (7)
10 Shine brightly (5)
11 Joy (4)
12 Grass tuft (7)
14 Arthur's burial place (11)
18 Sharp reply (7)
19 Stuff (4)
22 Sine Fein member (5)
24 Copy (7)
25 Suspend from work (3,3)
26 Fatal (6)

DOWN
1 Seizures (4)
2 Written defamation (5)
3 Mid-morning snack (3)
5 Deprive unjustly (3)
6 Loud outcry (7)
7 Furtive (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1440
ACROSS: 1 Ostrich 2 Brat 3 Rascal 4 Shift 5 Taper 6 Caber 7 Civil 8 Exams 9 Aphid 10 Tick 11 P.H. Newby 23 Most 24 Cleaner
DOWN: 1 Giant 2 Andropov 3 Neo 4 Sixties-Chapel 6 Raja 7 Rascal 8 Giant 9 Wretched 11 Sri Lanka 14 Bradwells 15 Cuckoo 17 Sayer 19 Miss 22 NGA

THE TIMES DIARY

If Willie should go...

Among the list of the great and the good to succeed Lord Whitelaw as Leader of the Lords, if his illness precludes him from continuing with his heavy workload, is Lord Carrington, the outgoing Secretary-General of Nato. Carrington, who resigned as Foreign Secretary in April 1982 after the Falklands war, is well regarded by his former colleagues. He has a good relationship with Mrs Thatcher and is popular in the Upper House. Although it has been generally assumed by Whitehall watchers that the 68-year-old Carrington would not be interested in another government post, there are those who now believe he could be persuaded to take on the job to "polish off his career". One problem for Carrington, who was Tory leader in the Lords in 1963-64, is that his Nato successor, Manfred Wörner, the West German defence minister, is not due to take over until June.

Question mark

Tory MPs, angry about Neil Kinnock's monopoly of Prime Minister's question time on Tuesday by rising four times to challenge the government on the NHS, have hunted through *Hansard* to prove that the Labour leader is a Welsh windbag. Andrew MacKay, MP for East Berkshire, has worked out from records of the first six months of recent parliaments that Kinnock has questioned the PM an average of 2.7 times compared with Callaghan's score of 2.2, Heath's 1.7 and Wilson's 1.75. MacKay complains that apart from hogging twice-weekly 15-minute sessions by asking more questions than his predecessors, thus denying backbenchers a share of the limelight, he also takes longer than most to ask a question in the first place.

Parliamentary sketch writers received an accolade from an unusual quarter the other night. For the first time, and at the behest of his wife Theresa, the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, invited them along with the usual gaggle of political editors and economics specialists to the Christmas party at No 11 — the first time the proceedings. Court reporters were, of course, excluded.

Homing in

American Express is going to court to defend its trademark sales slogan: "Never leave home without it". The company is suing a Manhattan novelty outfit for marketing a greetings card with the slogan on the cover and a condom inside. American Express argues that in addition to damaging its reputation, the gimmick card could lead people to believe it was promoting condoms as a public service. The slogan is also being used in a joke now popular in the US. It runs: Gorbachov has launched a Soviet rival called Russian Express. Its motto? "Don't leave home."

BARRY FANTONI



'Lake and Lily must be playing doctors and nurses — they've asked for extra funding'

Hartache

What's in a name? A lot, it seems, when it comes to choosing a title. Months after being created a life peer in the dissolution honours list, Dame Judith Hart, the former Labour MP, is about to register her title: Hart of South Lanark. Her first choice — plain Hart — was ruled out because although there are no others of that name sitting in the Lords at present, there was a precedent 250 years ago. Her next idea was to incorporate the name of her former seat, Lanark, changed by the boundary commission to Clydesdale, but both these feature in subsidiary titles of the Duke of Hamilton. Finally she chose South Lanark, the original name of her constituency, and next month joins her former colleagues who have already taken their seats and made maiden speeches. If only she had represented Midlothian...

Downbeat

After the Wall Street crash and the Ivan Boesky scandal the ever-inventive American advertising industry has said goodbye to the yuppie and is switching its sales pitch from status to economy and efficiency — while still flogging the same goods. An article in *The Wall Street Journal* this week reports Madison Avenue as trying to wipe out the yuppies because they have become boring and an embarrassment. It appears that advertisers, like the rest of us, have discovered that the term, once seen as a tribute, is now a cheap insult.

PHS

Averting world recession

Thirty-three economists from 13 countries yesterday launched a programme for solving the global economic crisis. This is an edited extract from the Washington-based Institute for International Economics' statement published simultaneously in London, Washington, Paris, Rome, Tokyo and Kiel



Two leaders with key roles to play: Takeshita (Japan), Kohl (Germany)

The financial markets have given two very strong signals in 1987 that something is seriously wrong in the world economy. First the bond market in the United States dropped by 30 per cent; then stock markets around the world plunged by 20 to 30 per cent.

The central problem is the existence of major and unsustainable imbalances: the sizeable US budget and current account deficits, the large external surpluses of Japan and the newly industrializing countries of Asia (NICs), high unemployment in Europe, and indebtedness and stagnation in the developing countries.

Since October 19, steps in the right direction have been taken in both America and the surplus areas. But they do not go nearly far enough. Unless more decisive action is taken the next few years could be the most troubled since the 1930s. Today's imbalances emerged over a period of at least five years, and will not be corrected overnight. It is thus urgent to launch the adjustment effort now.

The most glaring international imbalance is the growing indebtedness of the US vis-à-vis the three main surplus areas: Japan, Europe — especially West Germany — and the Asian NICs, notably Taiwan. Since failure to correct it could lead to a world recession, we believe it is imperative to tackle the underlying problems forcefully and urgently.

The effort must begin in the US where twin deficits lie at the heart of the matter. Policy changes in the surplus areas are also essential but are more likely to be forthcoming in the context of a vigorous American effort.

The US current account deficit is running at \$150-\$160 billion a year. Viewed either on whether to restore confidence in the dollar, it will be necessary to reduce it to zero so as to halt the build-up of foreign debt or rather just reduce it sharply. Whichever view is taken, however, the required adjustment is substantial, ranging from \$100 billion to \$150 billion over the next four to five years. On the other side, all the surplus areas will have to participate in this adjustment, because the inevitable correction of America's external deficit requires a widespread counterpart that no single area can provide. An improvement in the Third World debt situation could help this adjustment.

The necessary shifts in trade balances, as opposed to current account balances, will be even larger. By 1990, the US will be paying an additional \$30-\$40 billion of debt service on an accumulated external debt of perhaps \$700 billion, and the creditor

countries will be earning a similar additional amount on their foreign assets.

For the US, this means that the growth of domestic spending will have to be cut back sharply to leave room for increased exports and fewer imports. For Japan and Germany, it means that domestic spending, mainly investment, will need to be boosted to make up for a steep drop in the volume of net exports and to prevent a sharp rise in unemployment.

The challenge is to achieve these substantial adjustments in ways that will enable the world economy to keep growing at a rate of at least 2.5 to 3 per cent a year. This should be sufficient to slow the rise in protectionism and perhaps even allow its reversal, and to avoid a renewed crisis over Third World debt. It is also of cardinal importance that the hard-won victories over inflation of the first half of the 1980s should be preserved.

For the US, the objective should be to improve the trade balance by the equivalent of 4.5 to 6 per cent of GNP in volume terms. This requires holding the growth of domestic demand below the growth of output by 1 to 1.5 percentage points for four or five years — in the past four years domestic demand, exceeded output by an average of 1.2 per cent annually.

In principle, the cut in demand could be achieved by restraining private consumption, private investment, or net government spending. However, substantial new investment will be needed in

export and import-competing industries. Policy will have to achieve the bulk of the required redistribution of resources.

To restore confidence in the currency, bond and equity markets, it is essential that Congress legislate in advance the expenditure reductions and tax increases whose progressive introduction would eliminate the structural budget deficit by the early 1990s. On the expenditure side this could perhaps best be done by altering the formulas used to determine benefits under entitlement programmes, or their tax status or both.

Against this yardstick, we consider that last month's agreement between Congress and the Administration was grossly inadequate. The agreed cuts would leave the 1988 structural deficit no lower than its present level, and some \$30 billion short of the target suggested above. They include several "soft" features, such as one-time asset sales and assumed speedups in tax collection. They remain to be implemented.

Despite the obvious political difficulties involved, we urge the Administration and Congress to go back to the drawing board. We note that significant budget packages, including tax increases, have occurred in two of the last three years so that action cannot be ruled out on that account.

Politically, the most feasible budget package will probably include some mix of defence and non-defence spending cuts, and tax hikes. The specific compo-

nents of the budget package are less crucial than its total magnitude and launching it quickly and credibly. But it is important that any expenditure or (especially) tax changes should promote savings and investment, in preference to consumption. The most critical requirement is to restore confidence in the fiscal policy of the US, not least so that fiscal policy will again become available in helping extricate the country from a future recession.

Equally important, we believe that the US budget deficit has been a significant factor for the abnormally high level of long-term real interest rates, not only in the US but elsewhere. Thus once the financial markets become convinced that the US budget problem is being resolved, it should become possible to stabilize the dollar at an appropriate level.

All in all, therefore we believe that the depressive impact of the budget cuts would be offset quite soon by the boost from a lower dollar and lower interest rates, and hence pave the way, probably after a temporary slowdown, to a period of faster growth.

Japan faces the opposite challenge: converting an export-driven economy to a focus on domestic demand. The magnitude of the adjustment needed is substantial. To offset the decline in the trade surplus, domestic demand will have to rise by 1 to 1.5 per cent a year faster than GNP if unemployment is not to rise.

Japan has extensive unused needs that can fuel a sustained reorientation toward domestic demand. The housing stock, in particular, requires extensive modernization. Opportunities for additional infrastructure investment abound. Deregulation in such key sectors as agriculture, urban land use and trade policy offer substantial possibilities.

Europe presents a quite different picture, with high unemployment and slow growth. Faster growth is Europe's single most important need. To achieve this, the European Community must make an important contribution via the European Monetary System to bringing down inflation throughout Europe. Since 1985, however, the operation of the EMS has dampened the rise in the DM and made possible a massive rise in Germany's trade surplus with its European trade partners. Thus a period of catch-up growth in Europe as a whole may require not only a significant boost to German domestic demand but also an upward realignment of the DM in the EMS, and a willingness on Germany's part to go into current account deficit for a while.

After INF, Lord Chalfont looks ahead to Gorbachov's next likely step

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that those responsible for the security of the West have decided, after years of cautious pragmatism, to take a colossal gamble, apparently in the hope that, if it comes off, we shall enter into the sunlit Elysium of the "nuclear free world".

It is small wonder that Mr. Bruce Kent and the ladies of Greenham Common are raising their glasses in celebration; they have every reason to. Those who suggest that recent events are a triumph for multilateral disarmament and a blow to the "peace" movement have fallen victim to the fallacy that any disarmament agreement is better than none. The fact is that the current negotiations between the United States and Soviet Union, in agreeing to deal with one category of weapons in isolation, disregard one of the cardinal principles of a prudent arms control process.

It might therefore be in order to outline what strategists and military planners call a "worst case scenario". In other words, to set out in sober and unemotional terms what might happen if the mood of optimism proves false. Let us suppose that Mr. Gorbachov had come to the conclusion that the Soviet Union was a miserable, demoralized and inefficient society and that, on coming to power, he ought to do something about it.

In setting about his programme of internal reconstruction he would have decided that it was necessary to improve both the psychological and material well-being of the people. The first of these aims could be achieved by modest measures of liberalization — a slight relaxation in the massive apparatus of state control. Selected journalists and media persons are granted a licence to discuss openly matters upon which they had previously been forbidden to comment. There are reports of experiments with a limited form of private enterprise. A few eminent dissidents are released from incarceration or from their psychiatric hospitals.

These developments achieve for the general Mr. Gorbachov two closely interlinked objectives: they begin to improve the morale of the Soviet people, and they cause a great many in the West to believe that Soviet society is undergoing a radical transformation which will eventually lead to a degree of real freedom, tolerance and pluralism. Some even seem to believe this will be accompanied by a rejection of the principles which have guided Soviet foreign policy since the revolution. This is already no small success for Gorbachov's *perestroika*.

He knows, however, that reconstruction will not be achieved unless the material standards of life in the Soviet Union are transformed; and one of the essential prerequisites is a substantial shift of resources away from the vast military establishment which has since the end of the Second World War, been consuming a crippling proportion of the national wealth.

It is at this stage that Gorbachov



Soviet military might on show: it must be reduced before any further nuclear agreement

No giving way when Russia raises the stakes

has to move with all the considerable subtlety of which he is manifestly capable. For if he is to succeed — indeed if he is to survive — he has to complete his reconstruction without betraying the principles of the Marxist-Leninist strategy to which the Soviet Union and its intransigent bureaucracy remain committed.

The solution is to exploit the sense of optimism and relaxation which the much advertised *glasnost* has already induced in Western public opinion. If there is to be disarmament in the Soviet Union, it will certainly not be unilateral — the West must disarm, too. This is a reasonable enough proposition; but the Soviet leadership must choose a process of disarmament consistent with the basic principles of its foreign policy. One of these is to reduce, and if possible to eliminate, the Western ability to nullify the threat of Soviet military aggression by the counter threat of nuclear retaliation; the other is to separate the US from its European allies and begin to unravel the Western alliance.

A programme calculated to achieve these ends might look something like this. First, choose a moment when an American president is nearing the end of his second term and seeking, for quite honourable reasons, a place in the pantheon of peace-makers. Then propose a modest measure of arms control — the abolition of a whole category of weapons of intermediate range. This identifies the Soviet Union as the leader in the pursuit of peace; it offers the West a measure of relief from the activists who have concentrated their militancy on cruise and

pershing missiles; and in the minds of more thoughtful Europeans it raises the spectre of "decoupling" from the United States. It is, in effect, the beginning of a process which has been at the heart of Soviet foreign policy for more than a quarter of a century — the decoupling of Europe from the rest of the world.

The next move is to advance a broader aim of Soviet foreign policy — the removal of all nuclear weapons. The first stage in this must be dramatic enough to appeal to Western public opinion — especially to that large section which is understandably almost paralysed by fear of nuclear weapons — but not radical enough to justify any vigorous opposition from that fashionable constituency usually referred to as the hawks. It is a proposal to reduce the intercontinental nuclear armory by 50 per cent.

Let us pause here and look calmly at the next phase in this scenario. Suppose the United States and the Soviet Union should appear to be on the brink of another "historic" agreement; and that at that stage Gorbachov should have a change of heart and demand concessions on the Strategic Defence Initiative and the independent nuclear forces of Britain and France. How strongly do we believe that Ronald Reagan, with about six months of his presidency left, will resist these demands? What is likely to be the reaction of the West's volatile and euphoric public opinion? One of these questions will be answered quite soon, when CND turns its attention from cruise and Pershing to Britain's Trident submarine programme. The other will be answered some time between now and the Moscow summit, if indeed it takes place.

In the deceptive glow from the artificial lights of summertime, the West ought to contemplate a sober proposition. If Gorbachov fails, he will be succeeded by a leadership which will ruthlessly exploit any weaknesses in the West which his diplomacy has opened up. If he succeeds we shall be faced with an adversary whose basic foreign policy remains substantially unchanged, who will be better placed to pursue that foreign policy by the threat of armed force and who will be immeasurably more effective and self-confident.

This is not time to gamble on the outcome of Gorbachov's ingenious experiment, but rather to return to some of the unglamorous and inflexible first principles of international diplomacy. Above all, further agreements on nuclear weapons should follow, not precede, the achievement of a satisfactory balance of conventional forces. Even then, Western leaders would do well to desist from playing Gorbachov's game with foolish chatter about a nuclear-free world.

Lord Chalfont's Defence of the Realm was recently published by Collins (£12.95).

Ronald Butt

Bennett: the real issue

The governing establishment of the Church of England, that is to say those who are taken as speaking with authority, still do not understand, or in some cases perhaps do not wish to understand, the significance of the events which led to Dr Gareth Bennett's death. Rather than confront the issues that were raised in the *Crockford* preface, they have looked around at every stage for scapegoats, finding them in different forms at different times in this unhappy business.

When one is unclear about an historical problem, the best way to clear the mind is to go back to the narrative of events. In this case, whether it should be so or not, the *Crockford* preface has always been anonymous. Nobody can contribute to it on other terms. Further, it is the manifest duty of every writer to write what he believes should be written.

In this case, the invitation to write the preface produced a highly significant analysis of the nature of authority in the Church of England, its current condition and the worries of many in all its wings: Anglo-Catholic, what used to be called broad church, and Evangelical. A very small section of the article criticized Dr Runcie personally for his part in what the writer thought was wrong.

The response from the upper reaches of the church was instantaneous. The bishop of St Albans denounced it as "cowardly and disgraceful" and as an "abuse of anonymity", declaring that "few" in the church would have any sympathy for the views expressed. The Archbishop of York, Dr Habgood, condemned it as "scurrilous" and said it should be treated with "the contempt it deserves". Obviously confident that he understood the writer's motivation, he advised the church to regard it as "an outburst from a disappointed cleric who manages to pinpoint some of the real problems of the church but has nothing constructive to offer."

"Sourness" and "vindictiveness" were two of the qualities Dr Habgood applied to the preface. The Bishop of Salisbury could see in it nothing more than "gossip-column criticisms of boringly familiar targets, liturgical change, the Crown Appointments Commission, General Synod." A diocesan group from Bath and Wells dismissed it as the thoughts of "one anonymous, seemingly bitter and frustrated member of the Church of England."

In good ecclesiastical spirit, the Rev. W.D. Stacey, of Robinson College, Cambridge, a Methodist, wrote to *The Guardian* to describe the attack on Dr Runcie as "unjust, unscholarly and dishonourable" and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster wrote to *The Times* to attack the "notorious" preface by its "anonymous author" and to defend his Anglican colleague in terms of his concern for "the pastoral problems of urban decline" and Christian unity. These are indeed aspects of Dr Runcie's primacy but are irrelevant to the theological and ethical matters raised in the preface.

It then somehow got about that the whole thing was a put-up job

not only by frustrated Anglo-Catholics but also by Conservatives with a capital "C". One distinguished cleric was heard on radio murmuring about some Tory backbenchers who wanted bishops to concentrate on spiritual matters and not to get involved in such social questions as the inner cities and immigration.

Progressive newspapers quickly took their cue. *The Guardian* saw the preface as a "significant political event", an assault by a body of church opinion "heard not only at the better-heeled lychnae but in all those everyday forums where Conservative churchmen meet." To the question who was going to break the Runcie grip, *The Guardian's* answer was "Step forward Mrs Thatcher." *The Observer* wrote, "Not satisfied with their triumph over the BBC, Mrs Thatcher's bully boys now seem intent on doing the same de-stigmatising job on the Church of England."

By now, the preface was well discredited, having been treated purely as a personal attack on Dr Runcie or a manifestation of party politics. The next step was the naming of names and the interest of the press in discovery came inevitably into play, not without guidance from some church sources.

In despair, Dr Bennett killed himself. Expressing his "very great grief", the policy sub-committee of the General Synod deplored the various pressures to which Dr Bennett had evidently been subjected following the preface's publication. "What were these pressures?" Dr Habgood enlightened us. Around the preface, he said, there had been "an enormous amount of media hype."

A preface that "in gentler days" would have been "accepted as a sort of scholarly criticism" (which presumably means that it would not have been seen as sour or vindictive) had been "personalized" and "taken up in a very big way by the media... I do think it has to be recognized that the media pressure on Dr Bennett does seem to have been a major factor that led him to his death."

Everyone must form his own opinion as to whether a cleric deeply concerned about what he held to be the subordination of the ancient truths of his church to the trend of the secular world would be more likely to be driven to despair by the pressures of some tabloid newspapers than by the sense of isolation created by the condemnation by churchmen of what he had written as scurrilous, vindictive, contemptible, cowardly and animated by frustrated and personal ambition.

What matters now is not to lose sight of the substance of the preface. The countenance of liberal church opinion is bland and friendly but behind it lies an obdurate refusal to take seriously the case of those unwilling to abandon the obligations which have been the cement of Christianity for 2,000 years. But there is a still more fearful mark of incomprehension; the confusion of conservative moral and theological values with Conservatives, not to say Thatcherite, political values. It is to this phenomenon that I hope to turn next week.

however... Joseph Connolly

Needle match under the tree

The Christmas tree is up and glimmering, but what a battle it was! Not the decoration — just buying the thing.

Everyone says the best place to get one is a market. This isn't so. All the trees are trussed in soaking wet bales and if you comment upon their marked asymmetry, not to say deformity, the traders are liable to become testy and loquacious. Anyway, lack of time invariably dictates that I buy a tree locally — in Hampstead Village, where this year those on either side either resembled midwintery lacy bushes or else were very classy Nordic spruces, with prices ranging from very expensive indeed to astronomical. But it's only once a year (God understands that) Man has a breaking point and so I selected a very choice little number, about five feet tall and smelling of Badesod.

I lugged the thing over to a sveite and somewhat androgynous assistant, who upon closer inspection turned out to be a man (the saying was the give-away). I ascertained the cost, computed a lightning calculation (remortgage the house, persuade family that fasting is a positive health boom) and prepared to strike the bargain, if so it may be called.

And then a lady wearing a blinding and some jewellery assisted me.

"Excuse me," she said, "but I think that's my tree."

"Sorry?" I hazarded. "Don't quite follow."

"The tree. That tree. I have been staring at it for ten minutes."

"I toyed with something on the lines of 'rude to stare', but she was fairly large, so I let it go."

"Jew went awn?" enquired Samed, meanwhile.

"Indeed I do," I verified. "Do you have any holly?"

"We got mistletoe," he replied. "And how about holly?"

"That is my tree!" shrieked the lady.

"We got ree?" said the lad.

"It is my tree, actually," I insisted to the one, while to the

other I cried: "Haven't you got any loose bloody holly?"

Then the proprietor lumbered up with a cardboard box the size of a coffin. "Ollly!" he croaked through an Andy Capp butt. "Ollly! Don't you come ere talking to me about ollly! This box, he wheezed, hurrying it at my feet, by way of emphasis, "is sick-full of ollly. It was ten pound to me! Always the same this bloody time of year."

Anyway he selected a sprig that might have passed muster as a buttonhole, and putting on his most smile, said: "Two-fifty: all right?"

"Insist!" screamed the woman, "upon paying for this tree! It is mine. I have to have it, I tell you." And water jetted straight out of her eyes and actually splashed me.

"Oh it's no good!" she wailed. "I can't recapture what is lost. Why bother, now all the children have gone away?"

"Well," I relented, "you take the tree. It's maybe much cosier, just you and your husband."

The wall renewed with vigour. "Last Christmas Day he told me he wanted a divorce. Just like that. I bear him no grudge, the bastard. I spent the whole day on the heath with my dog. It was strangely beautiful."

"Well there you are, then — just you and your dog?" I urged.

Her eyes dropped. "Dog's dead," she whispered and walked away. Whereupon some man was about to pay for my tree.

"Hang on!" I hailed. "That tree — it's mine!"

"How do you figure that?"

I sighed. "Well, it's a long story. I've been looking at it for ages, and then the children left home, dog died — all fairly tolerable except that the husband wanted a divorce, you see."

For some reason he didn't tarry, and I got the tree. It looks very nice; one will do this every year I suppose — at least until the kids slope off, one's partner in life decides to call it a day, or the damn dog hands in his Wessall bowl.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

LONG-TERM HEALTH

Mr Tony Newton's announcement in the House of Commons yesterday of an extra £100 million for the National Health Service this year is welcome. Stripping out the extra money for storm damage, Aids and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the £65 million left to be distributed to the English regional health authorities is a fairly modest sum. But the decision is a sensible short term response to the political pressures which have been building up on the government during the past few weeks. But it is not the long term answer.

Including the effects of the pay award to nurses, spending in real terms on the NHS in 1987-88 will have risen by about 5.3 per cent - a big increase in one year. No one should imagine, however, that yesterday's statement will do a great deal to solve the underlying problems of health care in Britain. More fundamental changes are urgently needed. First, a greater degree of competition must be injected into the NHS by developing an internal market within the service. Secondly, it must be made easier for new money to be spent on health care from the private sector.

Competition within the health service can either be "bought in" by asking private contractors to tender for NHS services, or it can be developed within the service itself by getting different hospitals and different health authorities to compete among themselves. Contracting out is becoming more familiar as a number of hospitals experiment with private laundries and private caterers. But there is still enormous scope for widening the range of services which are provided via competitive tender.

The two main obstacles are politics and accounting. Opposition to buying in services from the private sector is still widespread in the health service, even though practically all the nation's drugs and medical equipment come from competing private firms. And NHS accounting is so primitive, especially in its treatment of capital spending and overheads, that it is not easy to compare public and private sector costs fairly.

Poor financial information is also an obstacle to more efficient use of facilities

across the boundaries of different health authorities. A recent pamphlet produced by the Centre for Policy Studies quotes a number of examples including the purchase by Portsmouth Health Authority of hip replacement operations from the King Edward VIII Hospital at Midhurst. But there is scope for increasing these cross-border transactions where they make sense and so shortening waiting lists by making better use of NHS resources overall.

Left to themselves health authorities will develop these ideas only slowly, if at all. The government must take steps to increase its knowledge of what is actually going on in the regions - knowledge which in any quantitative sense is woefully inadequate at present. The Government must also encourage, if necessary by legislation, a more radical approach to making best use of the health services resource. Mr Newton's pledge yesterday to set up monitoring of health authorities performance comes not a moment too soon.

Creating an internal market in the NHS is an essential precondition of any more radical change such as moving over to an insurance-based system as the US has, or introducing publicly funded vouchers for health care. Whether either of these will find political favour in the longer term remains to be seen. The Government, and still more the Conservative backbenchers, should not lazily and automatically assume that such things are "politically impossible". The sale of council houses, privatization, and bringing the law into industrial relations were all once thought to be politically impossible.

Meanwhile the government should do all it can to encourage the private sector to supply the extra funds which are needed. There is, for instance, great potential for further joint ventures between the NHS and private hospitals on the lines of the joint BUPA-St Thomas's lithotripter for breaking up kidney stones.

Yesterday's announcement has brought the government a valuable political breathing space. Ministers must make full use of it to undertake longer term reforms.

THE HART OF THE ISSUE

"I am not a member of any organised political party," the great American comedian Will Rogers explained many years ago, "I am a Democrat". The race for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination was disorganised enough before Mr Hart's amazing announcement on Tuesday.

There were half a dozen or more candidates. All of them, apart from Mr Hart (who became nationally known by winning the New Hampshire primary from Mr Mondale in 1984) were unknown to the wider American public except for the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a candidate whom much of the party wished was not, and Governor Mario Cuomo, of New York, a non-candidate whom much of the party wished was. Mr Hart himself, by his departure from the race seven months ago, gave a notable impetus to the disorganisation. His return adds still more.

Since Mr Hart left, Governor Cuomo has continued to delay his entry into the race. Some say that this is because he is a procrastinator, others that it is because he is a brilliant tactician. In due course, the world will discover whether Governor Cuomo is Hamlet or Clausewitz. Meanwhile, none of the others seeking the nomination has impressed himself on the public at large except Senator Biden. And he did so only by quitting the race as a result of being caught plagiarising other politicians' speeches - a downfall begun by a surely unique faith in Mr Neil Kinnock as an aid to winning elections.

In such circumstances, Mr Hart has undoubtedly reasoned to himself why not me again? And why not? Mr Hart had everything to gain by coming back and nothing to lose, save what is left of his dignity if there are any more allegations of middle-aged covetings. Also, as the world-wide immediately pointed out, he is in debt from previous campaigns, and is hard by the hope of federal campaign

funds. Naturally, he has to phrase it all rather differently. He has no pollsters, staff or money, he says, "but I have the power of ideas".

In that case, on the face of it, his campaign will be a test of what counts more in American politics: ideas or sex. Or rather, ideas or allegations of sex between married candidates and "bimbos". It is pointless to protest that Mr Hart's private life should have been irrelevant, and that they order these things better in France. Mr Hart is not trying to become president of France. He is campaigning in a country much affected by such disparate influences as Chappaquiddick, Watergate, the rise of militant feminism, and the invention of the idea that women are always being treated as "sex objects" by selfish men. In such circumstances, no politician's private life is his own. So Mr Hart's behaviour last time was ridiculous. His bravado, in challenging the press to investigate his private life, was suicidal.

But does he really have ideas? Mr Hart talks thoughtfully about the economy or arms control or whatever - more so than most of the other Democratic candidates. But those are topics rather than ideas. What he has to say about them does not amount to a coherent system of thought, such as conservatism or liberalism. When politicians talk grandly about "ideas", they should have one of those systems in mind - not a general chatter. Few politicians have ever invented a system of their own. So they should be content with other people's - as Mr Reagan is with conservatism, and the great Democratic presidents were with liberalism. Mr Hart does not look as if he has stumbled upon an idea which no one has thought of before him. If he had, he could be forgiven his other failings. As it is, Americans will be perfectly justified in making him, rather than his ideas, the issue.

NO RIGHT TO SMOKE

Were a new factory machine to emit odorous fumes which caused discomfort and the possibility of harm to a significant number of people nearby, sooner or later the Health and Safety Executive would be imposing conditions on its use concerning ventilation, the wearing of masks, regular health monitoring, and other measures which might suggest themselves to the official regulatory mind. And this would apply no less if the machine were a semi-human electronic robot whose smooth functioning depended on a constant supply of the latest fashionable King Size cigarette, low tar or not.

The reaction of such a robot's designer to that kind of disapproval would be a quick return to the designing board, to make the wretched thing as free of such unsocial practices as possible. He would not wait for conclusive proof that a statistically significant proportion of persons exposed to the apparent risk were dying or dead as a result. But robots do not have rights; and the redesign of human beings is more difficult.

These issues have been raised by the decision of a Southampton employment tribunal, reported in *The Times* yesterday. In that case the supposedly dangerous emissions came from an employee of a Basingstoke company. The company had, after due notice, declared its premises a smoke-free zone. The employee refused to stop smoking at work and was dismissed; he challenged the dismissal and he lost, despite a 1984 Birmingham precedent which appeared to be in his favour. Suddenly all over Britain smokers have more than a smoker's cough to deal with each morning: a risk to their livelihood looms through the tobacco haze too.

The change of target by the anti-smoking lobby from "active" to "passive" smoking was

a brilliant move. It has recruited on its side that most powerful of all policemen, "peer group pressure". But the Southampton tribunal's decision rests on the truth of either or both of two propositions. The first and more important is that smoking is indeed injurious to the health of non-smokers. This argument cites epidemiological studies said to show a direct, if not overwhelming, link between ill-health and involuntary inhalation of tobacco smoke.

The Tobacco Advisory Council counters with "Epidemiology is a science which requires the most careful, well judged and balanced experimental conditions and parameters so as to arrive at meaningful findings." To this the reply will be: it would do, wouldn't it. But that well-worn retort mistakes the burden of proof. It is less for non-smokers to prove passive smoking is harmful, more for smokers to prove it is not.

The other of the two arguments for compulsory non-smoking in the workplace is the right of employees to be spared unnecessary discomfort or displeasure. The epidemiological evidence falls somewhat short of showing that levels of smoke exposure so low as to be undetectable to the senses can nevertheless cause harm: those who are not aware of it are not likely to be in danger from it. But managements should have the right to ban smoking in the workplace if it thinks fit. The wise management would not take that step without consulting the employees. Some managements would ballot the workforce. Even the most militant non-smokers would have to agree that dismissal is too draconian a penalty if the problem can be solved by adjustments in the use of space, the declaration of local no-smoking zones, and improvements in ventilation. Equally, there can no longer be any "right to smoke".

Making full use of health service

From the Chairman, Paddington and North Kensington Health Authority

Sir, Although a great deal of what Mr Nigel Harris says ("Patients who pay with their health", December 15) is, as those of us who know him would expect, accurate and to the point, I do feel obliged, as chairman of his health authority, to challenge his assertion that management costs are left uncontrolled while medical and nursing services are cut back.

The NHS generally has an excellent record in keeping management costs both low and reducing. Nationally they have fallen from 5.12 per cent of turnover in 1979-80 to 4.44 per cent in 1986-87. Few other organisations, public or private, could match that achievement.

These cuts include the salaries of medical secretaries and ward clerks, who do an essential job in supporting the clinical work. In our district no less than 39 per cent of "administration" costs covers this group of staff.

Since 1985 we have reduced our management costs at district level by no less than £400,000 and those very same managers have delivered cost-improvement programmes totalling £1.6 million from non-clinical areas over the same period.

The management, which is being provided at a cost that would be the envy of many private sector companies, has also managed vital service changes, particularly in developing new services for people who tend to be forgotten by the newspapers - the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped in particular. As well as that, more acute patients have been treated and a cervical cancer screening system is being introduced and the quality of the whole range of services is being improved.

Could I make a plea that we stop the constant manager-bashing in the NHS. Our management costs are very low, our managers are skilled and dedicated and they are constantly searching for new ways in which the service can become both more effective and efficient.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HATFIELD,
Chairman,
Paddington and North Kensington Health Authority,
16 South Wharf Road, W2,
December 15.

From Dr Julian F. Bion
Sir, In his letter on behalf of the Intensive Care Society last week (December 2) Dr Hinds described the problems of recruitment of nurses into intensive care as the main factor limiting the provision of care for very ill patients.

Role of the unions

From the Director General, Engineering Employers' Federation
Sir, Bernard Levin's article (December 14) on the TUC, and various other bodies that he pronounces absurd, is colourful in expression but deficient in argument. It rests partly on the *a priori* assumption that most collective bodies are likely to be wrong - and that the more of them agree with each other, the more certain is their error.

One may have an instinctive sympathy with this view; but if we are to dismiss collective bodies as prone to error, surely the Government itself must be under suspicion, since it is a collective body par excellence. In this respect, the only thing that distinguishes it from the others is that it happens to agree with Mr Levin (who, admittedly, is singular).

Arguments against the "scabs' charter" do not arise from any misplaced sympathy with the TUC but from five simple considerations:

1. It is meaningless for ballots to be held if those who take part in

them do not respect the outcome. 2. Anything which tends to make ballots meaningless is harmful. 3. Those who belong to a union but who do not wish to follow a majority decision can and should leave the union.

4. Informal expressions of displeasure will be substituted for official union discipline and there will be no redress for those who suffer it. 5. Whatever its intentions, this aspect of the Employment Bill appears to contradict generally-accepted democratic conventions; to that extent it weakens the solid foundation of fairness and reason on which the Government's previous legislation has securely rested.

To disregard these considerations may be to pay a very high price for a nugatory gain. Yours very truly,
JAMES McFARLANE,
Director General,
Engineering Employers' Federation,
Broadway House,
Tottenham, SW1,
December 14.

chief constables in fact tend not to prosecute in cases where the excess is slight and there are no aggravating factors.

It is very probable nowadays that the innocent victim of a minor encounter with another vehicle who was later found to have exceeded the 80-limit by only two milligrams would not be prosecuted, unless, perhaps, she happened also to be the wife of a Cabinet minister.

Yours faithfully,
GUY BONEY,
King's Head House,
Sturbridge, Hampshire,
December 12.

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey
Sir, Messrs Hamington, of Brighton, have kindly sent me a calendar for 1988 with a notice issued by the Brighton postmaster showing posting times in Brighton for letters to be delivered in London and elsewhere.

Letters posted at 7 am at the Brighton Chief Office in Ship Street, or at 7.15 am at the Railway Mail Box will be delivered in the City three or four hours later from 10 am to 11 am and in other London districts from 11 am to 12 noon. There are similar intervals between posting and delivery throughout the day until letters posted at 4.30 pm, which will be delivered in London between 6 pm and 9.30 pm.

I thought many of your readers would like to know of this service, but I now find that the notice was reproduced from the company's 1985 calendar.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, Sussex,
December 11.

First-class post

From Mr R. D. Dryden
Sir, In reply to the reported remarks (December 14) attributed to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, about "Dover's chipped white caps mentality" the Dover Chamber of Commerce objects most strongly to this slur on the busiest port in the country and calls on Sir Geoffrey for an explanation and a public apology.

We invite the Foreign Secretary to make his explanation in Dover, the timing of such a visit to be at his convenience.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. DRYDEN (President,
Dover Incorporated Chamber of Commerce),
Victoria Cottage, Russell Street,
Dover, Kent,
December 14.

Cup running over

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Age-old problem

From the Reverend W. R. Hanford
Sir, My choristers, Sunday School children and Brownies no doubt consider me to be a very old thing indeed, but I had not fully realised this truth until your report (later editions, December 8) about the "elderly nun", who turned out to be 50.

As one who is moving towards that mark, I am now wondering how young one must be to qualify for such an adjective, for it is not implied that 50 is the lower limit. Also, am I now entering - indeed, have I already entered - a hitherto unknown grouping, that of the "pre-retired elderly"?

Yours faithfully,
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Ewell Vicarage, Church Street,
Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.

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December 14.

A new relationship in Europe?

From Mr Armen Oganesian
Sir, In your editorial (December 9) you raised the question of the future defence of Western Europe.

Western Europe will need a clear sense of direction and a depth of commitment to the transatlantic pillar of the Alliance which its governments have not always shown.

You urge Mrs Thatcher to make the modernisation of European defence her next frontier.

I see two major prospects for Europe. An old choice would mean that the arms race in Europe will continue. In this case it will merely move into other areas.

We can already hear the voices of those who advocate this strategy. Their arguments are inconsistent. On the one hand, they say that the Warsaw Treaty has an edge over Nato in conventional forces. On the other hand, they predict a decisive Nato advantage if the Alliance takes the route of creating "clever weapons" stuffed with electronics. In fact, it is a call for a new generation of destructive conventional arms. Advocates of this re-channelling of the arms race in Europe would argue against any cuts in conventional armaments, however slight.

Behind a shield

From Viscount Watkinson, CH
Sir, May an old hand who helped to entertain Bulganin and Khrushchev point to some policy markers for dealing with a quite different Russian leader.

Governing all issues is the fact that nuclear weapons cannot be dis-invented, however much we would like to do so. In a situation of complete nuclear disarmament, for example, a terrorist group or nation in possession of kiloton nuclear weapons (not all that difficult to construct) would be master of events.

Given this inevitable continuance of nuclear weapons, Winston Churchill's "balance of terror", or mutually-assured destruction, should not be discarded. It has served peace well for over 40 years.

Behind this shield we should seek to make the most of the one really hopeful factor arising from the intermediate-range treaty. Comprehensive inspection and verification, if it can be seen to succeed over the range of conventional and nuclear weapons, could lead to a much reduced and safer balance of forces.

American or Russian military space initiatives must not be allowed to halt this process. After all, to be viable any defence system against nuclear weapons must guarantee 100 per cent destruction of all incoming missiles. Anything less than this is not a system of strategic defence but a further escalation of the arms race.

Nato's twin-track policy of patient negotiation from strength over the whole spectrum of weapons still looks a better bet than any other for the difficult months of negotiations ahead.

Yours sincerely,
WATKINSON,
Tynna House, Shore Road,
Bosham,
Chichester, West Sussex,
December 15.

Slow summing up

From Mrs Rosemary Hill
Sir, After a lengthy wait in the inevitable Post Office queue, I was courteously served by a young girl who painstakingly struggled to add up a long list of overseas stamps totalling some £40. She told me the Post Office did not provide calculators. The queues would have moved twice as quickly had she had some simple electronic assistance.

A far cry indeed from the scanning systems used by supermarkets. When will the Post Office move into the 1980s?

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY HILL,
15 Lantern Close,
Putney, SW15.

Age-old problem

From the Reverend W. R. Hanford
Sir, My choristers, Sunday School children and Brownies no doubt consider me to be a very old thing indeed, but I had not fully realised this truth until your report (later editions, December 8) about the "elderly nun", who turned out to be 50.

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R. D. DRYDEN (President,
Dover Incorporated Chamber of Commerce),
Victoria Cottage, Russell Street,
Dover, Kent,
December 14.

But there is another option, and this would open the way to a new relationship in Europe. This is the prospect of following up the nuclear arms convention with radical reductions in conventional forces and the abolition of chemical weapons.

The defence-only strategy based on the minimum of measures essential to assure national security is becoming more and more popular. If this becomes a strong political tendency in Europe, and it prevails, then we will be living in an entirely new Europe in future. Many experts feel that emphasis should be laid mostly on reducing tension, which actually creates the need for weapons.

It is certainly vital to build confidence in Europe along with arms reduction. Suspicion is not only a consequence of the arms race, it is also a poor companion at negotiations. To get rid of it, or at least minimise its impact, politicians should work in both directions.

Unfortunately a process of working out effective confidence-building measures was slowed down after the success of the Stockholm conference. The new measures proposed by some politicians and statesmen have so far been ignored. The most interesting are the proposals to establish corridors free of all weapons capable of launching a surprise attack.

So it is important, in each particular case, to isolate the precise source of tension and act accordingly. Then there would be no gulf between agreements on arms control and real politics.

Yours faithfully,
ARMEN OGANESIAN,
Novosti Press Agency,
4 Zubovskiy Boulevard,
Moscow, USSR,
December 15.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 17 1925

Although metal was to supplant wood in aircraft construction, wood made a temporary triumphant come-back in the Second World War in the formidable De Havilland Mosquito

ALL-METAL AIRCRAFT

EFFECT OF THE NEW POLICY

(From Our Aeronautical Correspondent)
Important consequences will follow the new policy of the Air Ministry, announced in *The Times* yesterday, that wood is to be abandoned for the construction of Service aircraft, and not the least important effect must be a reorganisation of the present relations between the Air Ministry and the British aircraft constructing firms.

Ultimately the use of all-metal aircraft will be to the financial advantage of the nation, but whereas metal construction is cheaper in quantity production, it is more expensive when applied to a relatively few units. From a military point of view there is no question, however, as to its superiority, for a machine in metal can be built for less weight and as one in wood; it is more durable and certain repairs can be effected after damage in war which would entail complete scrapping of a similar machine in wood. It is not added that in quantity to fine limits of size with the certainty that they will retain their exactitude during long periods of time. But at the present moment there is only one all-metal machine in Service use in the Royal Air Force, and not more than three or four aircraft firms have developed any form of metal construction, it is not the point that it can definitely be put into production.

The British aircraft industry is, in the main, based on wood, and is, therefore, faced with the problem of installing expensive plant to transform its designs into metal and replacing its wood workers by metal workers. It has also to consider whether there will be enough firms to undertake the necessary changes over, and the decision just made to spread over a considerably longer period information and equipment of the Home Defence Force will be a serious matter for an industry which at present has not sufficient orders to cover adequately the 18 aircraft firms which are now on the approved list of the Air Ministry. One solution may be for certain firms which were originally woodworking concerns, and are even now not entirely dependent upon aircraft construction, to relinquish the aircraft side of their business in view of the change of method involved, while other firms without the experience in the working of metals may for a period be forced to obtain the wings for their designs, as they are now in some cases, from the firms which have sunk large sums of money in the experimental work necessary to produce an efficient method of construction.

The whole question is bound up with the huge cost of what is the minimum aircraft manufacturing reserve which financial considerations will permit to be maintained in peace, to provide against the rapid expansion necessitated in war, but the use of metal instead of wood involves the national problem in another way. Instead of being dependent on supplies of fine spruce from overseas, Great Britain in the future will have the raw material in the country. Steel is the basis of all the British metal construction, and while it creates difficulties of its own, the steel makers are developing the particular qualities required by the aircraft manufacturer at the same time as the metal aircraft firms are steadily improving the techniques of its working. These two factors will inevitably make the change over a gradual process carried out in consultation between the Air Ministry and the aircraft industry.

SSOR MAN...
DPEZ-REY
...at the UN

150

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS

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ADAMS - On December 12th 1987, at his home, 12, St. John's Road, London, aged 78, Mr. John Adams, formerly of the Royal Air Force, died peacefully after a long illness.

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Sovereign's Parade

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
General Sir Geoffrey Howlett
As Commander in Chief
Allied Forces Northern Europe
represented the Queen at the
Sovereign's Parade at the Royal
Military Academy Sandhurst on
December 11.

The following have been commended for their services in the Falkland Islands conflict:
Major General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe, for his leadership and courage in the face of the enemy.
Major General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe, for his leadership and courage in the face of the enemy.

Reception

National Maritime Museum and Museum of the Fleet
Lord Lewis, Chairman, and the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, and Mr. Robert Smith, Managing Director of the Museum of the Fleet, will be holding a reception at the Royal Overseas League, London, last night to preview the Armada 1588-1988 exhibition, sponsored by the National Maritime Museum next year, and to launch the Royal Armada, the Official Guide to the Year published by the Museum of the Fleet.

Church news

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Canon Donald Munt, Rector, Litcham, in Kempston, East and West Litcham, has resigned his office as Rector of Litcham and St. Andrew's, Litcham, to retire on 31 December.

Anniversaries

DEATHS Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830-1830; William Thompson, 1st Baron Kelvin, Glasgow, 1824-1907; Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

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HEALTH

As the Cleveland inquiry adjourns, Gitta Sereny examines a classic case of delay in rescuing a little girl from sexual abuse

Why caring must mean sharing

At the hearing into the activities of paediatricians Marietta Higgs and Geoffrey Wyatt — now the longest judicial inquiry ever to take place in Britain — the central issue has to some extent been overshadowed by personality clashes, accusations of excessive zeal and the use or mis-use of statistics.

Whatever else may have happened in Cleveland, there has clearly been a breakdown of trust: a failure of the various agencies — police, social workers, doctors, the NSPCC — to form a working alliance to protect both imperilled children and innocent parents.

Last week, Brian Roycroft, the director of social services at Newcastle upon Tyne, described to the inquiry just such an alliance, operating in his own area. In his testimony, Roycroft said of the crisis in Cleveland that "my colleagues will, on reflection, see things which could have been done better (or) perhaps not done at all."

The Times has been to Newcastle, and tomorrow we describe how Roycroft's authority is tackling the problem with long-term treatment. But today we examine a case-history of sexual abuse to see the dangers that can threaten a child when the work of the multi-agency team is obstructed.

Part 1: Lucy's Story

There are four good-looking children in the Stone family, as we will call them. William, aged 16, who didn't like school and has gone to work for his father, Tim, a gangly 12-year-old who likes maths and plays chess; Alan, a chunky, cheeky 10-year-old, devoted to football and loud music; and slim little Lucy, with an elfin face and long dark hair, who is seven.

Matthew Stone manages a store in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. He works late hours, is thin, pale and somewhat wispy, with an educated voice and startling, piercing eyes. William, who doesn't open his mouth unless he has to, seems scared of him. ("I can't think why," his brother Tim says. "Dad's never hit anybody.")

Dorothy, his wife, slim, well-dressed and well-spoken, was a laboratory technician when they married. Friends say that the house, in a pleasant residential district, has always seemed a warm place to come home to. The kitchen, where they usually eat, is homely; there are wellingtons in the hall, pretty things in the sitting room and good food on the table.

The parents' room upstairs is in startling contrast — no photographs or books except a Bible; no bottles or brushes, paintings or plants, no sign of habitation. The room, more than cold, is sterile, and the door is closed. Why so? Dorothy Stone shrugs. "It's only for sleeping."

The children, however, have ample leeway. Tim's room has books everywhere and a little computer on his desk; Alan's posters of rock and sports stars are

tacked to his walls; William likes his privacy — his room in the attic is locked. "I can understand him," his mother says. "He keeps it tidy enough." Lucy's room is full of dolls and cuddly toys, carefully lined up in rows. Whose choice is this symmetry? Dorothy Stone's intelligent eyes dart to the questioner's face. "Hers," she says shortly.

When Lucy was small she used to paint and draw, sometimes for hours. It is when one leafs through those brightly coloured toddler paintings, and the later pads with stark black drawings which have been put away in the cellar, that Lucy's nightmare world since she was four and a half years old begins to emerge.

It was in late 1984 that Mrs Stone became concerned about her happy little girl. Between one week and the next (or so it seemed in retrospect), Lucy had developed black shadows under her eyes, was listless in nursery school and at home; picked at her food; would sit with a "glazed" face, wince when touched and scream when put into her bath.

It was in fact this reaction that made Mrs Stone, after a brief look, take her to the family's doctor. His examination showed not only an angry inflammation of the genital area, but indicated possible internal trauma which, because of Lucy's desperate resistance, he was unable to examine.

The GP, a respected older man, had known the family for years. He prescribed a few days' bed rest, soothing cream and aspirin, a "24-hour watch" over Lucy by her mother and a "talk" with her husband. "The main thing, more



Wendy Hollis

By the time we did come in, the secret had taken root in the whole family

important than anything else," the GP said, "is to keep the family together." A few days later, after Matthew Stone, racked with emotion, had admitted to his wife that he "had played with Lucy," the same advice was echoed by their minister, in whose parish they had worshipped together for more than 15 years.

And there, until comparatively recently, is where the problem might have come to rest. Although most local authorities are now prepared to recognize that the problem of child sexual abuse exists, few are as yet equipped to deal with it in an organized and imaginative way. In the Stones' case, too, there was the disadvantage that the abuse was taking place in an apparently normal middle-class family, well outside the conventional scope of the "caring" agencies.

In this respect, if no other, Lucy Stone has been more fortunate. In 1968, Newcastle upon Tyne's

social services, under its director, Brian Roycroft, and with the leadership of Britain's pioneers in the field of child abuse, the paediatricians Donald Court and Christine Cooper, began to develop the "multi-disciplinary" approach to child abuse, now commonly accepted as the best method, but still rarely practised.

Social service and NSPCC workers, in a co-operation rare between traditionally competitive bodies, actually handle cases together. "It is when professionals are under-trained or working in isolation from either their own colleagues or other child-protecting agencies," Roycroft says, "that wrong decisions can be made."

Today in Newcastle, as many as 100 people — doctors, health visitors, police child-abuse teams (trained by the NSPCC), teachers, lawyers and magistrates — are brought in to advise on individual cases. In the last year they have handled about 400 child-abuse

investigations, of which 163 — representing a steady proportion — were put on the "active" register; 41 are cases of sexual abuse.

What happened to Lucy after her mother contacted her doctor illustrates the delays that can come between the Newcastle team and an abused child: the Stones' GP was unable to overcome the "family first" ideology in order to give priority to Lucy's needs. He telephoned the NSPCC to ask their advice, but refused to give either his name or Lucy's.

When Dorothy Stone collapsed several months later, broken by the strain of keeping a round-the-clock watch on her child, the GP finally gave the NSPCC his name — but not that of the family.

"It isn't only the public who instinctively resist this subject — doctors do, too," says Dr Hans Steiner, a consultant paediatrician

at Newcastle General Hospital's special family unit. "Having to diagnose sexual abuse in a child — sometimes, as we now see, in babies — is very, very unpleasant."

This becomes even worse when the abusers are otherwise socially respectable people who not only rarely come to the attention of the social services but are difficult for members of the caring professions to accept as offenders.

"Sexual abuse touches the foundation of what we are," says Maureen Lightley, a Newcastle NSPCC social worker. And for the "cater," says Dr Patrick Halse, a community physician who is another member of the Newcastle team, it becomes more difficult the closer the abuser's social world is to one's own.

"The resistance to the fact that all forms of child abuse cross all social barriers has been amply proved by recent public reaction," Roycroft says. "It is true that mistakes are made — but in the end it will always be better to risk mistakes in efforts to protect children than risk their health and lives by avoiding them."

The Stones' GP never, in fact, managed to overcome his instincts. It was finally the mother who — having found more symptoms of abuse — called in the police, two and a half years after she made the first discovery.

At this point, the Newcastle team could take over. By the end of the very first day, social workers had quietly talked to mother and child at home; Lucy had been given a gentle medical examination by two paediatricians — one a female police surgeon; and the father was discreetly picked up at his office and questioned at the police station.

"In our experience," said one official involved in the case, "men in this situation very often want to be stopped — they just can't stop themselves." Matthew Stone very quickly admitted his activities; tearfully, he explained that after his wife confronted him he had tried to stay away from Lucy but time and again lost the battle to prevent himself "fondling" her. "Fondling" turned out to be the sort of euphemism in which he continually sought refuge.

The police eventually concluded that he had learnt his lesson and would not do it again. He was released, "bailed" to another address and has taken a second job at weekends to support two establishments. He is allowed to see his three boys (who profess to have noticed nothing amiss), but not Lucy, who has been made

a ward of court in her mother's charge. The marriage has broken down, leaving the mother bereft and angry.

Robert Eccles of the NSPCC in Newcastle makes the distinction between two polarities of child sexual abuse. "Within the more primitive context, it is not in any way a mutual sex activity but specifically attuned to adult gratification for its own sake — and thus, however one looks at it, a profound brutalization of the child. By contrast, what we are now beginning to understand is the often respectable, almost totally enclosed incestuous family where a pseudo-pot, pseudo-tender relationship is set up by the adult with the child, on whom therefore an intolerable responsibility is placed. This 'corruption of love' is perhaps even more destructive."

He concluded: "What both have in common, is that the child is made to feel guilty, and is made to keep quiet." Thus the abuser and the child together become the guardians of the terrible secret.

"It is a classical case of empty textbook pages," added a doctor involved in Lucy's case, with some bitterness. "Stereotyped, conventional thinking prevented us from coming in at the beginning when we might have prevented the rot from spreading. By the time we did come in, the 'secret' had taken root, I believe, in the whole family."

"There are many dangers in this situation," one social worker said. "First of all, the father has never taken full responsibility for what he has done, replacing real admissions by euphemisms. As a result, Lucy has never heard him say, 'None of it was your fault — it was all mine.' Second, the mother — who perhaps loves him still — is under intolerable strain. It is impossible to say what deeper effect this is having on her relationship with Lucy, nor how the boys' feelings are affected; nor what it could do to any of them in the future."

Gitta Sereny is the author of *The Invisible Children, a study of child prostitution*, published by Pan.

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TOMORROW

Breaking the cycle of abuse in Newcastle

FREE

BOAT SHOW GUIDE



Find your way round the big event with this 16-page Show Guide packed with stand-by-stand information and classified product details PLUS new boats, plans of the Show and an exhibitors' list.

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TIMES BOOKS

Dangers of a cold night

Lord Whitelaw is not the first personality to suffer a stroke after reading a lesson at a carol service. Sir Peter Medawar, the distinguished scientist, had his initial attack in very similar circumstances.

A bitterly cold night, an inevitably draughty church and the tension of reading a lesson after the stresses of a day's work combine many of the risk factors which favour the formation of an embolus (clot) or thrombus in a cerebral or coronary artery.

Professor William Keatinge, of the London Hospital Medical School, told *The Times* that the increased liability of

MEDICAL BRIEFING

the blood to clot in these circumstances was partly due to vaso constriction (narrowing of the blood vessels) and partly to haemoconcentration (thicker blood). These resulted in an increased red cell count and higher concentrations of cholesterol as well as an increase in the number of blood platelets.

Lord Whitelaw's busy schedule in the Lords may also have been partly

responsible. Former United States President Richard Nixon's blood reacted to political tensions in a similar way.

Not only the great are at risk; a classic example of the effects of combining tension and cold are seen when a relative collapses at the graveside during a funeral. Professor Keatinge warns that people are not even safe after they have returned to their own fireside: statistics show that the effects of severe chilling are often delayed. After a cold snap the incidence of coronary thrombosis rises to a peak after 24 hours, and for strokes after three days.

Diet report soon

This week, conveniently in time for post-Christmas dieting, the Government is due to announce the findings of an investigation by COMA, the committee appointed to monitor the medical aspects of the nation's food, into very low calorie diets.

More than two million people in the United Kingdom have now used the Cambridge diet, the brand leader, and world wide it has been tried by 15 million, but its success has caused controversy.

The scientists who devised it claim that although it only provides 330 calories, it contains all the necessary minerals and vitamins for health as well as enough protein to prevent undesirable loss of lean tissue; its detractors are equally adamant that protein loss from the central organs is a possibility.

COMA, it is predicted, will be cautious and recommend that the amount of protein and the calories should be increased.

The Cambridge team, initially disappointed that the conclusions of their research work were not accepted *in toto*, have now agreed that they will, in deference to the views of the COMA committee, accept any recom-

Mr George Pinker

In an interview with Mr George Pinker, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (Health: December 10), the phrase "bloody good kick" was used. Mr Pinker wishes to point out that his comment was meant to apply to the National Health Service system rather than any individual.

Relief by drugs

The benign enlargement of the prostate will affect the majority of men who survive into late middle and old age. Surgery remains the treatment of choice but recently Hypovase (prozasin), used in hypotensive therapy, has been shown to be useful in relieving prostatic obstruction of the bladder outlet.

It acts by relaxing the smooth muscle fibres in the prostate thereby giving the

Relief by drugs

patient a better urinary stream and hence nights less troubled by the need to pass water. As Hypovase lowers blood pressure, it has to be given in small doses to start with so that its effect on the patient can be assessed and possibly dangerous unsteadiness prevented.

It seems likely that the drug will only be of long-term benefit for those who are unfit for a transurethral resection, an operation which, when carried out by an experienced surgeon, is remarkably safe and effective.

Dr Thomas Stuttford



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NEW INTEREST RATES

HomeOwner Reserve Rate

With effect from Thursday 17th December 1987 the HomeOwner Reserve Rate will be reduced by 1.5% to 13.0% per annum. APR 13.6%.

Home Improvement Loan Rate

With effect from Friday 1st January 1988 the Home Improvement Loan Rate will be reduced by 0.75% to 10.75% per annum. APR 11.5%.



Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BETWEEN EAST AND WEST:** The Czechs and the Slovaks play two Czech classics facing the freedom of the US. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 8571). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Delaney Bishop, Marie Friedman and Peter Sarsgaard singing heart-rending songs in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street, W1 (01-437 4500). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Fri: 7.30pm, Sat: 7.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **CINDERELLA:** Traditional version with Suzi Quatro as the prince, Beanie as a black Cinderella and Paul J. Medford (ex-Kelvin from Madness) as the fairy godmother. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3867). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **JANE AND KATE:** RSC production of the Cole Porter musical. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7616). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **LETITIA AND LOUISE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tizack waging comedy war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3867). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **LOVE'S A LUXURY:** A farce for Christmas performed by Orange Tree Reggae. Orange Tree Theatre, New Road, Richmond, TW9 (01-840 9833). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **OUTBREAK OF GOD IN AREA 8:** Divine intervention in the lives of our cultural leaders, courtesy of a report by Ken Campbell's troupe of zany. Young Vic, 68 The Old, SE1 (01-929 6889). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **SPECULATORS:** The RSC's answer to *Servant of Two Masters*, the class of 1988 exploits the City. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-638 8881). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **THE WIZARD OF OZ:** Imelda Staunton sets off on the Yellow Brick Road. RSC Christmas show with all the celebrated songs plus others out from the film. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-638 8881). Tue: 7.30pm, Wed: 7.30pm, Sat: 2.30pm, Sun: 2.30pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, 25-27.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Cuesons Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayday Theatre (01-629 3039). ★ Cuts: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 9511). ★ The Fall of Shalott: Theatre (01-734 9511). ★ The Fall of Shalott: Theatre (01-734 9511).

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The contribution of war to the emancipation of women in the 20th century is fascinatingly illustrated in a new exhibition of photographs. The above picture shows women munition workers making springs for tank guns during the Second World War. Before the Great War women had laboured in the cotton mills of the north or been confined to the service industries and arduous toil of home landladies. But the Conscription Act of January 1916 drained the country of unmarried men and the recruitment of women into heavy industry was actively encouraged. From 1914-1918 the number of women working in industry doubled. But although employed to do the work of men, a

woman's average wage at the outbreak of war was only half that of her male colleagues and by the end of 1918 was only two-thirds. When the men returned, women were forced back into their more traditional roles but the tremendous mood of change could not be ignored. The historical section, which covers the period from 1890-1960, is complemented by a more recent documentary on working women in the north east by local photographer Janina Strick.

Industries Women at the Museum of Science and Engineering, Hammersmith House, Hammersmith, London W6 (01-873 6789) Tuesdays to Fridays 10am-5.30pm. Saturdays 10am-4.30pm, until January 22. Michael Young

★ **JULIAN ARQUELLES/SIMON PURCELL:** The six-part series of the pianist's quartet in a special concert to raise money for the Ethiopian famine appeal. St Mark's Church, 107a Road, London E7 (01-519 6932) 7pm, 21.

★ **JAZZ DEFECTORS:** Slick dance troupe who have helped bring Zoot suits back into fashion. The Jazz Defectors, Manchester Road, Burnley (0283 30055) 8.30pm, 23.

★ **HUMPHREY LYTTELTON:** In his studies, the trumpeter still takes some beating. Humphrey Lyttelton, London SW1 (01-876 5241) 8.30pm, 23.50.

★ **BEST CHRISTMAS:** The Martin Best Ensemble gives a medieval Christmas concert. The Martin Best Ensemble, London W1 (01-635 2141) 7.30pm, 23.50-25.50.

★ **KING'S/ECO:** See caption. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8881) 7.45-9.55pm, 23-27.

★ **BRAMMA/PO:** Harry Bramma conducts the Choral Society of the Southwark Cathedral, London SW1 (01-876 5241) 7.30pm, 23.50.

★ **CORO CAPPELLA:** The Coro Cappella joins with the London Wind Consort under the baton of Bruno Turner in Christmas music from the Spanish Renaissance, including Victoria's *O Magnum Mysterium* and items by Guerrero, Pedro, Ramon.

★ **CASHMERE CAROLS:** Donald Cashmore conducts the Cashmore Choir, Bedford Square, London W1 (01-222 1061) 7.30pm, 23-25.

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★ **TASTE OF TELEMANN:** Telemann's Advent Cantata *Heilte die Tote* will be performed by the Lacedale Ensemble, as are Libeck's Christmas Cantata *Welkommen in unserm Lande*, Corelli's *Nel tempo di Concerto*, Purcell's *Pavane*, and Bach's Christmas Oratorio and much else. St Anne and St Agnes, Westminster, London EC2 (01-973 5569) 7.30-9.30pm, 23.50.

★ **RAPSODIA:** This is the name of a somewhat miscellaneous ensemble who offer an evening of music for piano, harp and voice. Included are piano works by Brahms, songs by Schubert and Strauss, and a variety of other pieces by Fauré and Puccini, by Liszt and Saint-Saëns, and *Carri's Help* by John Lurie. Performed as a harp solo.

★ **BECAUSE WE MUST:** Michael Clark's latest show for himself, his talented dancers and his stage-struck, on a platform, expect deliberate outrageousness. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8816) 7.30-9.30pm, 23.50-27.

★ **CINDERELLA:** Frederick Ashton's ever-popular production for the Royal Ballet, London W1 (01-437 4500) 7.30-9.30pm, 23.50.

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★ **BECAUSE WE MUST:** Michael Clark's latest show for himself, his talented dancers and his stage-struck

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 Cestaf AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.35 Leon Errol in His Past Friend (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast. News with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.15, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.45, 7.55 and 8.15; and weather at 7.55, 7.58 and 8.25.
- 8.40 Open Air. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes. To take part ring 051-814 0424. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather followed by Neighbours (r). 9.20 Killy. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on trade unionism in 1988.
- 10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r). 10.25 Children's BBC. Andy Crane with programme details and birthday greetings followed by Play School, presented by Fionna Benjamin with guest Fred Harris (r), and Wiltie the Wisp (r).
- 10.55 Five to Eleven. A reading by Martin Jarvis 11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Programme makers discuss their work with critical viewers. With Bob Wellings and Susan Raa. News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Today's edition of the magazine programme includes reviews of latest film releases 12.05 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 Neighbours. Zoe thinks that Chris is hiding a secret love 1.50 Going for Gold. European general knowledge quiz.
- 2.15 Film: War and Peace (1956) starring Henry Fonda, Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer. Part one of King Victor's epic adaptation of Tolstoy's 650,000 word drama set against

BBC2

- 9.00 Cestaf 12.30 Open University Communication and Education 12.55 Environmental Control and Public Health 1.30 Bessie. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).
- 1.35 Pioneers of Photography. Edward McKelvey and Dr E-J Marry's experiments in photographing movement (r).
- 2.00 News and weather followed by Sports Review of 1987. A repeat of Sunday's programme in which the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year was chosen. Introduced by Desmond Lynam and Steve Rider. Includes news and weather at 3.00.
- 3.40 Cestaf. The wildlife of Salton Sea, California (r). 3.50 News, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 It's My Pleasure. Peter Hain talks to Desmond Lynam about his favourite television memories.
- 4.30 International Sport Jumping, introduced by David Vine from the Grand Hall, Olympia.
- 5.30 Vintage Floyd. Keith Floyd samples fish dishes of Britain in St Mado (r).
- 6.00 Bettelstar. Galaxies. Space-jumping adventures.
- 6.30 Cover to Cover. A.N. Wilson and his guests Sue Townsend and Nigel Williams choose and review each other's favourite books of the year.
- 7.30 Thinking Ahead. Is the idea of civil disobedience or absolute? Discussing this question are Tim Dean, Adam Kuper, Fay Weldon and Bernard Williams. Michael Ignatieff is in the chair.
- 8.00 Interview. Terry. The story of AIDS victim Terry Maloney, a 41-year-old actor who appeared in the AIDS week programmes earlier this year.
- 8.50 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim Hecker looks forward to basking in the glory of the start of work on the Channel Tunnel - but there are a few problems to be sorted out with the French. (Cestaf)
- 9.30 40 Minutes: Party Time. A bird's eye view of seven disparate parties. (Cestaf)
- 10.10 Shranesky. Part four of the five-part programme series on Nathan Shranesky.
- 10.40 Newsnight 11.35 Weather.

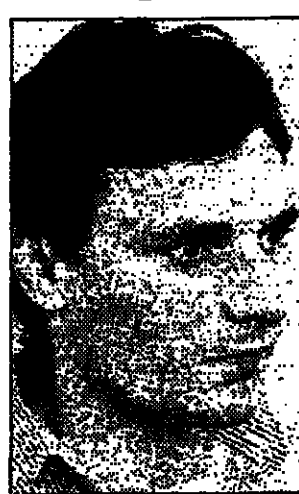
ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am includes Good Morning Britain between 6.00 and 6.30.
- 6.30 Thames news headlines.
- 6.30 Runway. Travel quiz presented by Chris Searle 10.00 Santa Barbara 10.30 News headlines 10.30 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.
- 11.10 Puddle Lane. Puppet series presented by Neil Innes 11.25 Thames news headlines 11.30 Look Good, Feel Great includes tips on how to have a healthy and vibrant Christmas, and, alternatively, a hangover cure. 12.00 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s
- 12.30 News with Julia Somerville
- 1.00 Falcon Crest. Drama serial starring Jane Wyman as the matriarch of a California wine dynasty 1.55 Home Country Club. Drama serial starring 2.00 Cross Wit. Word game presented by Tom O'Connor. With Paula Wilcox and Graeme Garden.
- 2.30 All Our Yesterdays. Bernard Braden introduces a topical comedy news series of 1992 - the year Prince Charles went to Gordonstoun, the Queen opened the new Coventry Cathedral and Marilyn Monroe died.
- 3.00 The Showgirl. Gail. A teenage girl learns the virtues of discipline and responsibility 3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian family drama serial. Fionna Benjamin with guest Fred Harris (r). 4.30 Chisholm 'n' Pips. Adventures of two garden gnomes 4.45 Garfield and the Royal Canine Force 5.15 Blockbusters. General knowledge game for teenagers presented by Bob Holmes.
- 5.45 News with Fiona Armstrong.
- 6.25 Help with advice on pollution in the workplace.
- 6.35 Crossroads. Joe receives some disturbing news as he is about to appear in the Beckindale pantomime.
- 7.30 Only When I Laugh. Comedy series set in the ward of a hospital. Starring James Bolam, Peter Bowles and Christopher Straul (r).
- 8.00 Strike It Lucky. Quiz game using the latest technology. Presented by Michael Barrymore.
- 8.30 For the Love of Prey (1973) starring David Janssen, Ralph Meeker and Elaine Hovell. A made-for-television drama about a radio station's weather helicopter pilot who witnesses bank robbers escaping with a hostage. He decides to take up the chase. Directed by William A. Graham.
- 9.00 News at Ten with Sandy Galt and Carol Vorderman followed by Thames news headlines.
- 10.30 The City Programme. Is the pre-Christmas shopping boom the best before the fall for the retail sector? And fine wines as an investment. Presented by Michael Wilson and Marie Kinsey.
- 11.05 01 - for London. A critical guide to London's entertainment.
- 11.35 Prisoner. Cell Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's prison.
- 12.30 Meltdown. The Cross in concert.
- 1.00 A Problem Aired. Experts discuss viewers' personal and mental problems.
- 1.30 Kojak. A derailed man tries to shoot a woman who looks like his wife.
- 2.30 News headlines followed by The Chase For Comfort. Comedy series.
- 3.00 Film: Deadfall (1988) starring Michael Caine as an expert jewel thief. Directed by Bryan Forbes.
- 5.00 ITN World News 5.30 CNN Headline News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 Business Daily.
- 12.30 Just 4 Pm. For young children 1.00 Sesame Street. Educational series for pre-school children.
- 2.00 Their Lordships (r).
- 2.30 Film: The Admirable Crichton (1957) starring Kenneth More, Cecil Parker and Diane Cilento. J.M. Barrie's tale of a perfect sailor who rescues other aristocrats after they have been shipwrecked on a desert island. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.
- 4.00 Round the Island. A British Rail documentary, made in 1958, taking a trip round the Isle of Wight.
- 4.30 Countdown.
- 5.00 Film: Shriek (1986, b/w) starring Shirley Temple and Frank Morgan. Seven-year-old Dimples Appleby leads a group of New York grand entertainers while her grandfather picks the pockets of the spectators. Directed by William A. Seiter.
- 6.30 The Sharp End. How GPs are reacting to the Government's proposals to improve their efficiency; payroll
- charity donation schemes; and an entertaining way to improve managerial skills.
- 7.00 Criminal 4 News with Peter Stears and Nicholas Owen.
- 7.50 Comment and Weather.
- 8.00 North to Nowhere - Quest for the Pole. The story of a race to the North Pole which took place last century.
- 8.00 Film: The Rise and Rise of Michael Krummer (1970) starring Peter Cook and Denholm Elliott. Satirical comedy about an efficiency expert who takes over an advertising agency, quickly becoming an MP and rising to prime minister. Directed by Kevin Bligh.
- 10.45 The Last Days of Pompeii. A documentary about the life and times of Josephine Baker (r).
- 12.15 Film: Kings and Desperate (1961) starring Patrick McGovern. Drama about a Canadian radio personality whose family is taken hostage by a terrorist organization who want to reopen the trial of one of their captured comrades. Directed by Alexis Kanner. Ends at 2.45.

A real-life whodunit



Ernest Barrie (left), jailed for robbery. But he is innocent, says David Jossel (right): Rough Justice, BBC1, 9.30pm.

by a Scottish court - 18 years. But was the man in the bank really Ernest Barrie? Rough Justice (BBC1, 9.30pm) has examined the unique video evidence and declares his innocence. Experts more used to studying satellite pictures of cities bring their skills to bear on the physical characteristics of the man in the bank: he is 5ft 10in or 5ft 11in (Barrie is 5ft 9in) and the proportions of his face do not approach those of Barrie. "Not the same man", the experts are agreed. A morphologist at Manchester University is 90 per cent certain, too. New light on the facts makes the evidence against Barrie hard to believe, says programme presenter David Jossel. The answer could lie in the video film.

Ken Gosling

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1).

News on the hour. Sports Round-up 8.55am.

9.00am News 9.15am Ray Moore 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00pm News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00pm News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00pm News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00pm News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00pm News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00pm News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00pm News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00pm News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00pm News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00pm News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00pm News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 5.00am News 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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1348.9 (+16.9)FT-SE 100
1689.8 (+19.8)Bargains
24387 (23662)USM (Datastream)
151.04 (+0.5)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8335 (same)W German mark
2.9859 (-0.0009)Trade-weighted
75.7 (-0.1)Bankers
sign Brazil
debt deal

Nearly 80 international banks have begun signing the £3 billion interim financing deal with Brazil which will enable the Third World's largest borrower to end its 11-month moratorium on debt repayments. About two-thirds of the money will go to Brazil, while one-third will be repaid as interest to the banks.

The banks involved in the arrangement are the largest lenders to Brazil. Smaller banks, left out to ensure the agreement was reached swiftly, will also benefit from the payment of interest arrears.

Negotiations over a longer term rescheduling package are under way. Comment, page 27

Johnson final

Johnson & Firth Brown, the metals and engineering group, made pretax profits in the year to September 30 of £5.6 million, against £4.6 million the previous year. Turnover fell to £83.8 million from £92.4 million. The total dividend was raised to 1.5p (0.25p). Times, page 26

WCRS buy

WCRS, the advertising agency and marketing group, is acquiring Cohn & Wells, a San Francisco direct response company, for up to \$18 million (£9.8 million). WCRS is planning to pay an initial \$3.2 million, half in cash and half in shares, with further payments related to profits. Cohn & Wells made pretax profits of \$1.15 million in the year to November 1986.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 1941.15 (+0.39)
Nikkei Average 22819.42 (+27.31)
Hang Seng 2145.71 (+65.09)
Amsterdam Gen 212.2 (-1.1)
Sydney AO 1242.7 (-6.0)
London
Financial 1358.7 (+28.9)
General 3540.5 (+14.5)
Zurich S&P Gen 418.50 (+5.10)

FT-A All-Share 832.18 (-10.05)
FT-30 1348.9 (+16.9)
FT-100 1689.8 (+19.8)
FT-1000 220.4 (-7.1)
FT-10000 94.90 (-1.15)
FT-100000 87.66 (-0.32)

Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 29
Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RESE:
Caffrey 415p (+32p)
Body Shop 375p (+20p)
Harcourt 375p (+20p)
Sun Alliance 837p (+20p)
Atlantic 407p (+34p)
M&P 705p (+21p)
CD Retail 475p (+20p)
EPI 218p (+30p)
Appleyard 327p (+20p)
Harcourt 375p (+20p)
JA Devlin 285p (+20p)
Bess 807p (+18p)
Redfern 444p (+18p)
Mint 456p (+19p)

FALLS:
Schroders 750p (-75p)
J Jarvis 600p (-50p)
Moss Bros 842p (-47p)
Baron Transport 825p (-100p)
Turnhill Scott 525p (-30p)
Mint 400p (-25p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 8 1/2%
3-month interbank 8 1/2%
3-month office bills 8 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 8 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.95-5.99%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.8335
£/DM 2.9859
£/Sfr 2.4387
£/FF 16.898
£/Yen 161.04
£/Indonesian 151.04
£/ECU 1.5104

New York
\$/\$ 1.0000
\$/DM 1.9365
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\$/FF 6.5525
\$/Yen 127.30
\$/Indonesian 151.04
\$/ECU 1.5104

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$487.75 pm \$488.20
close \$488.50-487.00 (\$265.50)
New York
Comex \$488.00-488.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) pm \$18.75 (\$18.95)
* Denotes latest trading price

Brent 25/12/87 29
Brent 26/12/87 29
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PSBR moves
into surplus
£1.55 billion payment
exceeds expectations

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's public sector borrowing requirement is on course for a substantial surplus this year, after another set of figures which bettered City expectations.

There was a public sector repayment of £1.55 billion last month, as the Treasury received the bulk of the proceeds from the BP share sale. In October, there was a £984 million repayment. Expectations had been for a November repayment of about £1 billion.

The cumulative PSBR for the first eight months of the financial year showed a surplus of £1.1 billion, and the consensus in the financial markets is that the full-year PSBR will show the first surplus since 1969-70, the final year of Mr Roy Jenkins' Chancellorship.

"This was another remarkably good figure," said Mr John Shepherd, economist at Warburg Securities. "It's a reflection of the very strong economy. The Chancellor will have an embarrassment of riches at the time of the Budget."

The cumulative repayment of £1.1 billion in the April-November period compared

with borrowing of £5.7 billion a year ago.

The main difference between the two years has been the timing of privatization receipts. The BP share sale, the proceeds of which were largely received from the underwriters, brought in £1.5 billion last month, giving a total for privatization this year of £4.9 billion - close to the full-year target of £5 billion.

Comment 27

After allowing for the changed pattern of privatization proceeds, however, the picture remained healthy. Cumulative borrowing excluding privatization was £3.8 billion in April to November this year, compared with £7 billion last year.

The prospect for the PSBR for the remaining months of the financial year could be affected by the purchase by the Bank of England of BP shares under the Chancellor's buy-back scheme.

Treasury officials said yesterday that the maximum cost of this would be £1.5 billion, if all the shares were bought back.

However, market analysts

believe that the Bank will be forced to buy back £500 million of the new BP shares at most, and this will not hit the prospect of a surplus on the PSBR.

"Even if BP shares have to be bought back, the prospects for the year are very good indeed," said Mr Kevin Bookers, economist at Greenwell-Montagu Gilt-Edged. "We would still expect a PSBR surplus of around £1 billion."

This year's run of low borrowing figures has again come about largely as a result of very buoyant government revenues. In the first eight months of the financial year, consolidated fund revenues, including privatization, were up by 12.5 per cent, compared with a Budget forecast of an 8.75 per cent full-year rise.

Customs and Excise receipts rose by 6.5 per cent in the first eight months.

Government stocks ended virtually unchanged on the day, in spite of the good borrowing figures. About £300 million of the £1 billion tender offer for Treasury 8 per cent Convertible 1990 was left with the Bank of England. All tender offers were allocated at the minimum price of £98 per cent.

ECC stays
silent on
Bryant bid

By Colin Campbell

English China Clay, which last January mounted a £187 million bid for Bryant Group, the house builder, left the stock market tantalized yesterday by saying Bryant had exceeded its profit forecast and that ECC "will keep this investment under review".

Mr Alan Dalton, ECC's chairman, said he was not going to be drawn into a debate about the Clay's 29.85 per cent stake, which cost £53 million.

The clay, quarrying and construction group yesterday announced pretax profits of £12.1 million for the year ended September 30 compared with £9.4 million, on a turnover which rose by 11 per cent to £762.5 million.

The final dividend is raised from 8.25p to 9.5p a share, making 14.5p (12.5p) for the year.

Order books are healthy Times, page 26

Guinness 'promise
made to Boesky'

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness gave Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced American arbitrator, a guarantee against losses and promised him a "specified level of profit" on his share dealings, according to a memorandum filed by the US authorities in a New York district court.

The memorandum provides a graphic explanation of Mr Boesky's role in the takeover of Distillers and of his co-operation with the US authorities.

It was Mr Boesky's information about his involvement in the Distillers takeover bid that triggered the DTI investigation into Guinness.

The memorandum says people representing Guinness asked Mr Boesky to "sell short" shares in Argyl, the rival bidder for Distillers, with the aim of depressing the Argyl share price and thereby reducing the value of its bid.

It also states that unnamed parties asked Mr Boesky,



Pictured in: Derek Birkin (left), of RTZ, and Roger Leverton, head of MK Electric (Photograph by Tim Bishop)

MK agrees £262m RTZ bid

By Cliff Kelham

The battle for control of MK Electric, the plings and sockets group, was all over, but the shooting, last night when RTZ Corporation, the industrial and mining group, raised its offer to £262.5 million.

MK abandoned its resistance and immediately urged shareholders to accept the new terms of 700p cash a share, 40p more than the rival bid from Legrand the French electrical group, and a hefty 150p above RTZ's first offer, which was worth £206 million.

Legrand was still considering its position last night, and said a further announcement would be made shortly. But observers widely expect Legrand, which built up a 9 per cent stake in MK, to pull out of the auction.

On the stock market MK jumped 45p to close at 706p, a record high. RTZ, which backed up its increased bid by snapping up a further 3 per cent of the MK shares to lift its total holding to 25 per cent,

yesterday defended the decision to raise its terms so substantially.

The revised offer represents a premium of 69 per cent over MK's price immediately before the announcement of its first offer - which it had described at the time as "full and generous".

Mr Derek Birkin, the chief executive of RTZ, argued that as the bulk of the company's holding in MK had been acquired at 550p a share, the new offer represented an average cost of 667p.

"In the light of that, the offer is not really £7 to us, it is 667p," he said.

Mr Birkin said it had been decided to increase the terms after taking a close look at MK's prospects and the profit forecast for the current year - unveiled yesterday - of £25 million, an increase of 27.6 per cent.

"This forecast was at least 10 per cent more than the most optimistic analysts were

going for," Mr Birkin said, "which does demonstrate that the company has a very encouraging future."

"I think that in talking to us MK became convinced that we wanted to maintain and develop the business," he added. "There is no question of selling any of it off."

"That worried them about being taken over by Legrand. There was the real concern MK would become the UK satellite of a French company."

Mr Roger Leverton, the MK chief executive, said: "This all came as a bit of a surprise. We were planning to publish our defence today, which would have been a pretty vigorous document."

"But they asked to talk, seemed satisfied that our profit forecast was sensibly based and came back with a price which we feel is a much more realistic reflection of the real value of the business," Mr Leverton continued.

The new terms value MK on an exit price-earnings ratio of 21.7 times, against the initial offer worth 17 times earnings.

"I think that is very fair," said Mr Leverton. "They are getting a good business and our shareholders are getting a good deal." Earlier this year MK shares were changing hands at 349p.

Last night Mr Karl Debenham, senior analyst at Sheppards, the stockbrokers, said: "I don't think many people had cottoned on to how much MK was really worth. RTZ, who have a reputation for being careful strategists and aggressive bidders, realized they would have to pay a premium, but they obviously consider it reflects the potential in the business. I think they are taking a long-term view."

MK will be developed as part of RTZ's Pillar group, which is a leading supplier of electrical equipment to the construction industry.

BA buys
6% stake
in B-CalBy Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A split opened in the ranks of British Caledonian shareholders yesterday as two big investors agreed to sell their shares to British Airways for a total of £12,250,000.

The sale, which has yet to be completed, gives BA a 6.29 per cent stake in the company.

The formal BA offer to buy shares at £9.72 each - valuing B-Cal at £200 million in all - is expected to go out to shareholders before the week-end.

But the Scottish American Investment Company and Fenchurch Nominees - a subsidiary of Kleinwort Benson - have already agreed to sell. BA is talking to other institutions in the hope of acquiring at least 15 per cent of B-Cal before the SAS deal is complete.

That would put enormous pressure on other institutional investors.

BA is concentrating on investors behind 31, which has 41 per cent of B-Cal, - the Bank of England and the main clearing banks.

● The Danish Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schlüter, has come out publicly in favour of selling his government's stake in Scandinavian Airlines System, Colin Narborough writes.

This could help remove strong objections within the British Government to SAS's partial bid for B-Cal.

Woolworth takes out injunction

By Carol Leonard

Woolworth, the high street retailer, has been forced to take out an injunction in the High Court to prevent confidential company documents from being used by a third party as ammunition in a takeover battle for another stores group.

The injunction was taken out against a London evening newspaper and others, after the documents, described as board papers, were leaked to a journalist.

Woolworth served the injunction against a reporter from the *Evening Standard* at his home on Tuesday evening.

The papers, rumoured to have come from the Benlox camp, currently bidding for Storehouse, are understood to refer to informal discussions Woolworth had with the Habint, Motherscare and BHS group in July.

The papers were apparently intended to ensure that the Woolworth board was in agreement that these discussions should take place - they do not represent any form of deal between Woolworth and Storehouse.

"We did talk to Storehouse at that time," said Woolworth director Mr Nigel Whitaker.

"But they were inconclusive meetings."

Storehouse, which later turned down an offer of 445p a share from property group Mountleigh, was apparently "sounded out" on the figure of 400p a share by Woolworth.

The merchant bank Kleinwort Greaveson, adviser to Storehouse, agrees with the Woolworth version of events. Mr Ray Green, a Kleinwort director, said: "There was an approach by Woolworth but it was very informal. We never had any formal discussions. No one at Benlox was available for comment."

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Price Waterhouse

URWICK MANAGEMENT CENTRE

B&C launches a merchant bank with £100m capital

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

British & Commonwealth yesterday launched a new merchant bank with capital of £100 million — larger than several of the City's oldest and best-established banking houses.

The new bank, to be chaired by Mr John Gunn who is also B&C chairman, will undertake niche corporate banking activities and private banking for wealthy individuals.

Called British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank, it is based around the existing Cayer Ltd, whose capital is being boosted from £13 million to £100 million.

Mr Gunn said the aim was to build a business based on a new management team, modern ideas and substantial capital resources.

But he added: "In terms of structure we are looking backwards, not forwards; looking for niches rather than meeting competitors head-on. There is plenty of room in the market for a new old-fashioned merchant bank."

Mr Bruce Urell, the deputy chairman and chief executive of BCMB, said the link with a group as large as B&C gave the new bank credibility with counterparties and made it easier to attract high quality staff. "It is crucial to get the right people, and they will bring the clients with them," Mr Urell said.

The bank will offer debt and capital markets-related services to customers, but will not be involved in conventional corporate finance or Big Bang activities.

But it will also undertake more complex deals which require special structuring, such as off-balance sheet financing.

It already claims specialist expertise in areas such as the property, media, travel and energy industries, as well as local authorities. Mr Urell said that although it would seek business in Europe and the US, the new bank would concentrate very much on Britain.

BCMB will also include a private banking side with a new branch soon to be opened in London's West End. This will be closely linked to a private stockbroking operation, to offer a rounded financial service to high net-worth individuals.

BCMB already owns Stock Beech & Co, a Bristol stockbroker, and a private banking operation in Geneva. It plans to expand its British stockbroking network through acquisitions and is negotiating to buy banking operations in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

BCMB is looking for a return of about 20 per cent on capital and expects to have employed its initial capital within about two years.

Mr Gunn said an additional £50 million was available from B&C for acquisitions by the new bank if required.

Mr Urell brought a team with him from Guinness Mahon earlier this year. Mr Malcolm Wilde, the managing director, has also come from Guinness Mahon.



Capital idea: Malcolm Wilde (left) and Bruce Urell yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Boost to £12m at Acatos & Hutcheson

Pre-tax profits at Acatos & Hutcheson, the edible oil processor, were £12.2 million for the year to September 27, compared with £7.2 million last year. Turnover was £201 million against £188 million previously.

Last year's profits result was itself an 80 per cent improvement. The bumper results for 1987 have been expected since the company turned in profits of about £6 million at the half-way stage this year.

Acatos has raised the final dividend from 3.75p to 5.5p. This means a total payout of 8.5p, compared with 5.75p last year. Meanwhile, earnings per share have increased from 15.3p to 25.5p. The company says its London margarine factory is in operation.

Borthwicks hit by £2.1m pretax loss

By Joe Joseph

The clouds that appeared to be lifting at Borthwicks, which recently limped back into profit after large-scale restructuring and a successful battle to cut borrowings, have returned with news that the meat processing and bakery products company lost £2.1 million pretax last year.

The company says it is currently operating close to break-even, and gives a warning that interim figures for this year will not be good, although indications for the year as a whole are slightly better.

Borthwicks signalled in August, just two months after reporting interim taxable profits of £462,000, that it might barely break even at the end of the year, after greater than

expected competition in the British meat industry.

Yesterday's figures underline that the beleaguered company, which all but went under at the start of the decade after the collapse of the US imported beef market, still has not returned to full health, despite its reorganization.

Business was pressured by the volatility of international commodity trading, and the decline of the group's original core activity of meat handling in Britain. Turnover for the year to September 27 sank to £282.2 million from £353.9 million, but the company is encouraged by its success in cutting net borrowings to £15.1 million.

There is no final dividend.

ERF drives its profits up to £1.6m

A substantial increase in the British truck business of ERF Holdings, the independent truck manufacturer, was the most significant factor behind a pretax profit increase from £62,000 to £1.6 million for the 27 weeks to October 10.

The company is, therefore, restoring the interim dividend and declaring a payout of 2p for shareholders. Earnings per share have rocketed from 0.2p to 19.4p, helped by the fact that the company's tax losses mean it pays no tax on its half-year results. Turnover was £52 million as against £35 million.

The company says British vehicle orders have remained "buoyant" during the third quarter and full-year results should be "satisfactory".

Four UK brokers win seats in Tokyo

From David Watts, Tokyo

Four British securities companies have won seats on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in a round of 16 new foreign members.

There were six British entrants in this second round of admissions. The successful applicants were County Nat-West Securities Japan, Kleinwort Benson International Inc, Schroder Securities (Japan) and Baring Securities. The two not admitted were James Capel Pacific and Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities.

The British Government has been pressing the Japanese government for months to admit all six entrants.

Barclays said in a statement: "In view of our position as Britain's leading securities house, the size of our operation in Tokyo and the strength and solidity of our parent company we are naturally disappointed at the decision."

Though the decision would have "little or no effect on profitability in the short to medium-term," the company looked on membership as a necessary step and hoped membership would be reopened soon.

Mr Ken Lucas, chairman and managing director of James Capel Pacific, said it too was disappointed.

Six American firms were also granted seats with two each going to France, West Germany and Switzerland.

Six new Japanese firms were admitted after last-minute complaints to the TSE board that the five Japanese admissions planned constituted an unfairly small number in view of the number of foreign companies gaining admission.

The new admissions are made possible by increased computerization of the exchange which has made available more space.

The demand for seats compelled the TSE board to adopt operational size, record and experience in Japan as the criteria for admission. James Capel started its securities operation in Tokyo in June and Barclays in September, though they closed their books at the end of the period.

Formal admission will come on May 23 and the firms must start business by the end of next year. They are expected not to withdraw within three years.

With transaction fees down in a bear market which is itself about 60 per cent down in volume, the immediate prospects for the new members look hard.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Lawson's tax bonanza rides out BP hiccup

The Chancellor of the Exchequer could be forgiven for thinking that things will come out right, no matter what. The election-year boom for the economy has provided the Exchequer with a revenue bonanza of Klondike proportions. The November public borrowing figures, out yesterday, indicate that even if the Bank of England had to buy back all those new BP shares between now and January 6, there would still be a borrowing surplus.

The public sector borrowing requirement was negative — there was a net repayment — by £1.6 billion last month, producing a cumulative repayment for the first eight months of the financial year of £1.1 billion. At this time last year, cumulative borrowing was £5.7 billion. And, even allowing for the changed pattern of privatization receipts, this year's borrowing is running more than £3 billion below last year's levels.

With the January tax-paying season for companies set to be exceptionally strong this year, and the consumer spending boom apparently unaffected by October's events in the financial markets, there seems little reason to depart from the view that the PSBR "surplus" — the first since 1969-70 — will be of the order of £2 billion, compared with the Treasury's Autumn Statement forecast of a £1 billion borrowing requirement.

The BP buy-back scheme has introduced an element of uncertainty, but its importance rests more with the likely impact of the BP episode on future privatization offers than on this year's PSBR. If all the shares were taken back by the Bank of England at 70p a time, this would add £1.5 billion to the PSBR.

In practice, with around £500 million tied up by the Kuwaiti Investment Office, the maximum is nearer to £1 billion, and the most likely figure no more than £500 million.

All of which makes the gilt market's grumpiness yesterday look, at first glance, a little surprising. True, there was the £1 billion tender of Treasury 8 per cent Convertible 1990 to mull over — about £300 million of which was left in the Bank's hands according to Greenwell-Montagu estimates. But this was not a bad result.

Sterling's poorer performance on the back of lower oil prices, similarly, is not regarded as an unwelcome development in the gilt market. The establishment of a small cushion between sterling and the DM3 level removes the need for either further base rate cuts or heavy intervention in the foreign exchanges, neither of which the gilt market is in the mood for.

The real concern for the gilt market is that the economy is overheating. Record retail sales, the fastest growth in manufacturing since 1973, and soaring tax revenues represent a heady diet — and those have all emerged in the first three days of the week! The view is

gaining strength that 8.5 per cent represents the low point of the base rate cycle, and that the New Year could bring higher rates sooner rather than later.

Dance of debt

One step forward, one step back has become the style of the Latin American debt crisis these days. The first stage of the interim Brazilian financing deal, ending the 11-month repayment moratorium by the country, is now being signed. One step forward by the banks.

In its way, the agreement is a landmark. It is scarcely a month since the £3 billion agreement between Brazil and the negotiating committee representing the banks was first announced, and already the banks are putting their signatures to it. That is something of a record for a rescheduling deal.

The speed is for two reasons. One is the desperate need of the US banks to convince their supervisors that the interim agreement is not just window-dressing to avoid having to declare their Brazilian loans "value impaired."

The second reason is that only some 80 banks are involved in this agreement, out of the several hundred bank creditors to Brazil. These 80 are the biggest and account for around 80 per cent of the debt. Barclays and National Westminster, among British banks, originally opposed the deal because while their exposure to Brazil went up proportionately, the smaller banks not involved in the interim arrangement still benefited from the payment of interest arrears.

Yet the outcome is the strongest argument so far in favour of schemes, such as Exit Bonds, designed to reduce the number of banks involved in Latin American debt problems. The whole framework of debt negotiations would take on a new dimension of flexibility and speed, with fewer banks involved.

But while the interim financing goes ahead, Bank of Boston this week caused a stir by writing off 20 per cent, more than \$200 million, of Latin American debt. That is a stage further than the provisioning on which banks have so far concentrated, and it looks certain to be followed by other medium-sized US banks.

The move shows signs of debt-fatigue, a condition discernable in a growing number of bankers these days. Easier to write off the loans and forget about them — and if anything is eventually repaid, so much the better. But it does nothing to strengthen the banks' bargaining position with Latin American governments. The more the banks downgrade their own loans, the stronger becomes the arguments of their debtors for concessionary interest rates, capitalization and even debt forgiveness. One step back by the banks.

Firmandale's stake in TRT is frozen

By Lawrence Lever

The battle over the future of the £320 million TR Technology Investment Trust resumed in earnest yesterday when the trust obtained a High Court order freezing the stake of Firmandale Investments, its largest shareholder.

Firmandale, a Jersey nominee company with a rapidly accumulated 27 per cent stake in the trust, has been pressing the TRT board to come up with restructuring proposals.

At one stage it requested an extraordinary general meeting of TRT shareholders,

although it dropped its request at the beginning of this week.

The freezing order was obtained without Firmandale or its advisers, Berkeley Govett, being notified of the legal proceedings.

It prevents Firmandale from transferring its shares or voting with them.

TRT obtained the order on the grounds that there was a prima-facie case for saying that Firmandale had failed to comply with notices served on it under the Companies Act,

obliging it to reveal who is behind the company.

Mr Peter Cadbury of Morgan Grenfell, adviser to TRT, said yesterday: "After two and a half months of inquiries the uncertainties about who or what lies behind Firmandale are if anything greater than ever."

Mr Arthur Trueman, chairman of Berkeley Govett, said he expected that Firmandale would challenge the court order.

"Our client considers that it

has satisfied the legal requirements" he said.

Firmandale is a Jersey company with a long and complicated chain of ownership.

Inquiries by TRT have led to the disclosure that Firmandale is being financed by nine international banks, and that its shares are held by a Hong Kong nominee company called Reserve Assets.

Two discretionary trusts, one in Hong Kong and the other in Jersey, lie behind Reserve Assets.

Families that stray together

A number of prominent names on Wall Street and in American publicly-quoted corporations could be the next to fall victim of the insider dealing purge being carried out by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Speaking to a Senate banking subcommittee in Washington earlier this week, David Ruder, the chairman of the SEC, revealed that his probe into such illegal stock deals had unveiled "a number of tragic cases involving families." He was apparently referring to dinner-table discussions where one member of a family may have inadvertently or otherwise conveyed inside information to a son, daughter or sibling. "I think it happens because people are not sufficiently aware of insider trading laws," he said. "They do not really understand that it's wrong."

Ruder refused to name names or say how many illegal trading cases were involved. He said that he would, however, be making a status report within the next few days.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Still King of the Garbs

Despite reports of a stiffer sentence awaiting him, disgraced arbitrator Ivan Bosky, for one, doesn't seem to think that he is going to be locked away for his crimes — or, if he is, not for long. He has, I hear, just ordered a number of new suits from his

more free days to their staff. The report shows that smaller companies — which presumably includes several City brokerage houses — are more generous with salary bonuses than large firms. The real North-South divide emerges, however, in the choice of staff presents. Apparently the favoured gift in the North is a turkey, while southern employers tend to go for wine.



"Usual story — stock market crashed — unable to finance video games habit — turned to crime"

Code war

Merchant banks trying to ensure that their corporate departments are leakproof should perhaps take note of the Bank of Bilbao's recent — but now abandoned — £2.2 billion bid for rival Spanish bank Banco Español de Crédito. Even though it was Spain's first hostile bid, and teams of advisers had been drafted in from Salomon Brothers and public relations firm Hill & Knowlton on both sides of the Atlantic, the eventual bid took the market by complete surprise. To ensure such secrecy, code names were apparently allocated, with fines of 100 pesetas (50p) for non-use. Hill & Knowlton was known as the *montaneros* ("mountain men") and Salomon Brothers as the *mineros* ("miners"), while more junior members of the Salomon team were called *niños* ("the little boys"). "It worked so well, we sometimes had difficulty remembering the real names of the companies we were dealing with," says *montaneros* director John Gould.

Feuding spirit

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the chairman of house builder Barratt Developments, is discovering for himself how difficult it is to please all of the people at least some of the time. A Christmas dinner he generously hosted at a local pub for some 40 or so tenants on his 4,800-acre estate in Farndale, north Yorkshire, last weekend, was, I hear, boycotted by a handful of rent-payers who interpreted his gesture as being feudal and patronizing. At the same time, leaseholders on the estate — famous for its magnificent spring daffodils — were said to be somewhat miffed that the invitation had not been extended to include them, simply by virtue of the fact that they had bought their own homes. Sir Lawrie, who never stays on the estate, visiting only occasionally for grouse-shooting and important community events, is, according to the leaseholders, as canny as a Yorkshire native. He has refused to sell the freeholds of any of his properties there, giving out 113-year leases instead.

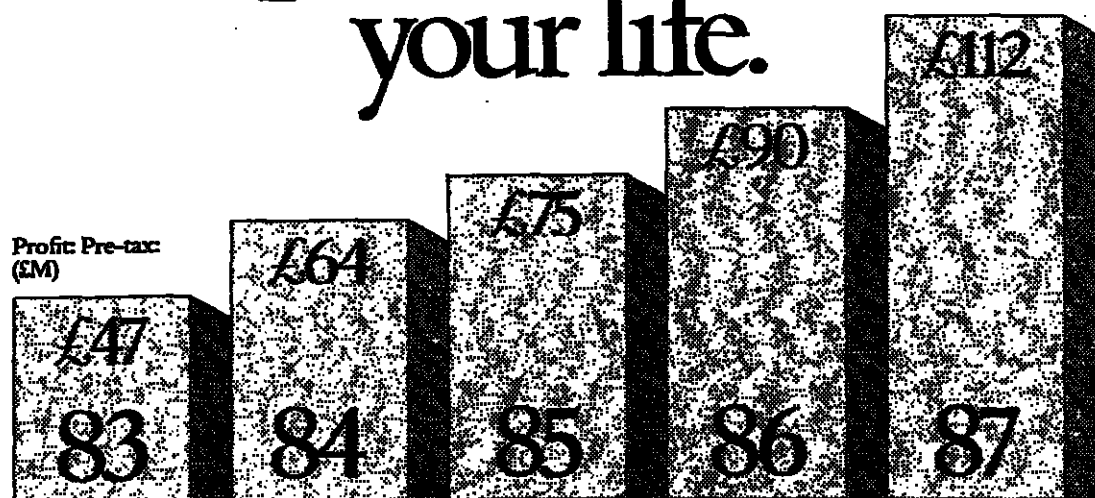
Yuppies are starting to hit back at those onlookers gleefully anticipating their sudden demise following the crash of '87. A spirited letter from a reader says that "some defence is in order" and offers a catchy acronym for such denunciations — Blears. This stands for "Born Losers Expanding All Their Energy Rubbing Success."

Carol Leonard



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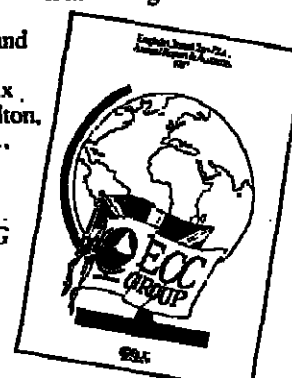
In the year to 30th September 1987, Group sales reached £762M, profits before tax climbed to £112M and earnings per share rose 23% to 34.88p, and the final dividend is up 15% to 9.5p. The chart reflects the solid progress that we are making with our plans. Our first priority is to seek always to provide first class products supported by first class service, backed by substantial reserves of minerals and other relevant assets and concentrated in the basic businesses we know well. We believe that this is a strategy that ensures high performance in good years, and perhaps, more importantly, provides flexibility and strength under difficult conditions.

In ECC International we have an industrial minerals group, mining, processing and marketing china clay (Kaolin) of which we are the world's largest producer, together with a range of other minerals which

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For more information and a copy of our 1987 Annual Report, write to, telex or fax our Chairman, Sir Alan Dalton, English China Clays P.L.C., John Keay House, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4DJ, UK. TELEX 455526 ECCSAUG FACSIMILE (0726) 623019



A worldwide success

US airlines may be forced to service planes at home

By Colin Narborough

A transatlantic dispute is brewing over protectionist measures, now before the United States Congress, that would require all US-registered aircraft to have maintenance and repair work carried out at home.

If approved, the measures would bar US airlines from having their aircraft repaired in Europe, and cut off business worth millions of pounds to European repair stations, which in many cases are operated by airlines.

In a letter to key Congressmen on Monday, Sir Roy Denman, the European Commission's ambassador to Washington, called the proposed measures "pure protectionism," which was furthermore in breach of US commitments under the rules

of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

He gave a warning that the substantial trade surplus the US enjoyed in aircraft maintenance and manufacturing could be threatened if the Europeans countered the measures with restrictions of their own.

The offending legislation, known as the Wheat Amendment after the Congressman who submitted it, this month passed the House of Representatives as part of a fiscal appropriations resolution, but was removed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Saturday.

The fate of this legislation, designed to protect the US maintenance industry from foreign competition, will be decided in a House-Senate committee this week.

In response to developments in Congress, 11 foreign governments, including seven EEC states, last week protested to the State Department, expressing concern that US restrictions could become less acceptable than at present.

A spokesman for Britain's Civil Aviation Authority said the measures run counter to the way the US Administration had been moving on this issue, after heavy lobbying by Britain and other EEC governments since the US authorities restricted the scope of foreign repair work early last year.

Under pressure from the Europeans, the Administration had in fact been seeking to liberalize maintenance rules with European authorities responsible for airworthiness. The Federal Aviation Administration even considered that there was no safety or other justification for geographical limits on maintenance by repair stations enjoying its approval.

But the US machinists' union persuaded some Congressmen to back legislation to prevent any easing of geographical limits, despite the US airlines' desire to relax the rules.

In Britain, maintenance firms, such as Hampshire and Sussex Aviation—a specialist in Rolls-Royce Dart engines—and the repair arm of British Caledonian, stand to lose a large amount of business if the Wheat Amendment succeeds. West German repair stations, such as those operated by Lufthansa and MTU, would also lose millions of pounds' worth of business.

Personnel control 'a booming profession'

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Personnel management is one of the fastest-growing professions in Britain, with local government, banking and finance institutions among the largest employers. And, according to a survey, women make up 42 per cent of those employed in a job where top salaries are around £30,000 a year.

The survey, carried out by MIL Research on behalf of Personnel Today, a new magazine in the field, found that there are now about 125,000 people working in personnel management.

More than half of all British companies have a personnel department. Some 85 per cent of local authorities and health services have such a department, with 28 per cent employing more than 10 professionals. By contrast, the survey found, 62 per cent of companies in manufacturing industry employ fewer than three personnel officials.

Personnel management is a profession where women reach high positions. The survey found that 33 per cent of the better-paid jobs are held by women. It is also a profession for the young: 40 per cent are under 35 years of age.

The job itself is changing. As well as being involved in recruitment, record-keeping and staff welfare, personnel professionals are now involved in running training courses, establishing staff evaluation schemes and administering pension schemes.

Nikkei 27 points down

(Reuters) — Share prices fell slightly in moderate trade because of market concern over uncertain US currency policy, brokers said. "There seems to be a lot of confusion in the US about what they want to do about the dollar," said strategist Mr Craig Chader of Smith New Court Far East. "This may mean the dollar is going to fall."

The dollar remained above ¥127 yen, but doubts lingered among investors, brokers said. A broker said he thought the market had discounted the possibility of ¥120 to the dollar by the end of 1987.

Implementation of the US budget deficit cutting accord would help quell market fears, some brokers said, particularly if the two-year plan is approved very soon.

FRANKFURT

Index up by 28.9 points

(Reuters) — West German shares closed well up on Tuesday's finish though mostly off their opening highs, as a continuing round of small orders sufficed to boost shares in the thin pre-Christmas market, dealers said.

Once again, private investors and professional traders were behind the buying. A general unwillingness to sell sharpened the effect of the buying interest.

The Commerzbank 60-share index, set at mid-session, rose 28.9 points or 2.2 per cent to 1,356.7. The Boersezeitung 30-share index ended 4.87 points or 1.75 per cent higher at 282.64. Among the strongest gainers was Aachenener und Muenchener, the insurance company, which rose DM30 to DM635.

SYDNEY

Shares ease as gold slumps

(Reuters) — Shares closed easier after a sharp fall in bullion prices was followed by selling in the gold sector, brokers said. Gold fell US\$13 to US\$482.20 an ounce overnight, in response to a stronger US dollar and weaker crude oil prices. It later recovered slightly in Asian trade, to US\$485.55-US\$486.05.

Investors took profits in heavyweight miners and a number of industrial stocks. By the close of trade, the All Ordinaries index was down 6 points, at 1,242.7.

HONG KONG

Prices close sharply up

Improved sentiment on Wall Street caused share prices to close sharply higher for the third consecutive day, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index finished 65.09 points higher at 2,145.71, gaining momentum in the afternoon, while the broader-based Hong Kong index rose 42.76 to 1,401.69. Turnover climbed to HK\$834.91 million, from HK\$766.28 million on Tuesday.

Hang Seng index futures also gained ground. December contracts rose 57 points, to 2,145 and January contracts were 55 points higher at 2,140.

The Nikkei index lost 27.31 points, or 0.12 per cent, to 22,819.42. The index fell 79.55 points on Tuesday. Advances almost equalled declines in turnover of 680 million shares — the greatest since November 19 — against 480 million shares on Tuesday.

The first section index fell by 7.52 points to 1,837.03, after dropping 0.84 points on Tuesday. The second section index gained 4.78 points, to 2,424.25, after a 4.94 point gain on Tuesday. Turnover was 22.94 million shares, against Tuesday's 23.14 million.

Securities house, bank, pharmaceutical, airline, railway, bus, and insurance shares led the decline. Speculation that the Ministry of Health

and Welfare would cut drug prices next spring by roughly 10 per cent unnerved investors, some brokers said.

Other brokers said pharmaceuticals had performed well recently, and simply fell on profit-taking.

Communications, machinery, construction, glass and cement, rolling stock, car, pulp/paper and shipbuilding issues advanced. Japan Air Lines shares were unchanged at ¥14,400 (¥61.53).

Sony said it would spend ¥30 billion on upgrading semiconductor production plants in the year to March 1988. Its shares were unchanged at ¥4,850.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone shares fell ¥40,000 to 2.28 million yen.

NEW YORK

Setback for Dow in early trading

New York (Agencies) — Shares were slightly lower in early trading after a mixed opening. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.12 points at 1,932.36.

Prices were higher earlier in the morning after a firm opening on better-than-expected November housing starts, brokers said. Profit-taking on gains in recent days gave way to the economic news, which Mr Allen Sinai, an economist, said showed the market crash had not hurt the economy.

Early advances led declining issues by three-to-two. Trading was active, especially with AMR Corporation, up ¼ at 33 3/4; Bethlehem Steel, off ¼ at 17 1/4; and ATT, 28 1/2 at ¼.

Richmond Hill Savings Bank said its board unanimously rejected as grossly inadequate the proposal by Grace-Pickens Acquisition Corporation to acquire the bank for \$16 per share.

The board also declared a quarterly dividend of 5 cents per common share.

Bond buys up the Golden Mile

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond yesterday realized yet another dream — control of the Golden Mile, an enormously rich gold vein in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Gold Mine of Kalgoorlie, of which Mr Bond is the chairman, will pay Posidon Aus\$375 million (\$145.68 million) for its 50 per cent holding in Kalgoorlie Lake View. The latter owns 52 per cent of Kalgoorlie Mining Associates, the proprietor of two of Kalgoorlie's biggest mines. They are strategically sited on the gold-bearing body which, since its discovery 90 years ago, has produced 1,106 tons of gold.

The Posidon stake will enable Mr Bond to create a "super pit," his term for a vast open-cut mine 900 yards wide and two miles long. In full production, it will produce an estimated 650,000 ounces of gold a year.

Mr Allister McLeod, the chairman of Posidon, said yesterday that GMK would pay his company Aus\$200 million cash on April 5, 1988, and 214,000 ounces of gold (currently valued at Aus\$150 million) within six years.



Going for gold: Alan Bond

Moreover, there would be an Aus\$25 million convertible note payable in seven years, or convertible into 5 million GMK shares in two years.

He said Posidon had realized a "substantial amount" of cash which would enable it to "pursue the many opportunities available since the recent share market crash."

Mr Bond's Golden Mile assets, combined with St Joe Gold Corp (bought last August for Aus\$700 million and with an estimated 1990 output of 650,000 ounces) will rival the leading South African producers.

Within three years he is expected to eclipse Western Mining Corporation as the country's biggest gold producer.

Gencor goes ahead

Gencor Group, one of South Africa's larger mining houses, is going ahead with development of its Oryx gold mine in the Orange Free State where mining will start in 1991.

A circular to members of St Helena gold mining company, whose company will benefit from development of the new gold mine in the Thumissen district of the OFS, outlines a capital cost to be spent in two

phases of R1,500 million (£428.6 million). Production will build up to 100,000 tons of ore a month, and 220,000 when the second shaft system is commissioned.

The yield is expected to be substantially in excess of the current industry average of 5.3 grams per ton. Oryx will become a division of St Helena, and no cash outlay will be required by St Helena.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings December 28
Last Dealings December 28
Call options were taken out on: 19/12/87 Oxford Instruments, National Westminster Bank, Brunswick, Salisbury, Lomax, Plomax, STC, MS International, Portland, Sound Diffusion, Remot, BOM Holdings, North Kalgoorlie Mines, Norton Open, Costin.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Gaslec Rise	4 1/2
Alst Restaurant	Hard Rock Cafe	125 -3
Brit Pet PIP	Do 'A'	88 -2
Bute Mining (100p)	ISA Ind (80p)	91 +1
Co of Designers (100p)	Lloyd Thompson (170p)	142 +4
Dolphin Pack (100p)	Meyne Nickless	168 +3
Eurotunnel	Nestlé-SMA (75p)	76
Eurotunnel Writ	Pargam Corinn	88
Fairway London	Power Corp	85 +13
	Record (80p)	58
	Rolls-Royce (170p)	116 +8
	Rural Plan	85
	Sec Archibald	145
	Shalbury (180p)	108
	Shorro	108
	Sykes-Pickavant	118 +2
	Tomorrow's Leisure	31
	Trevian Higgs	65
	Tubular Exhib	21
	URS Int	46
	USOC Int	107 -1
	Wilshaw Sacs	128 -2
	Zellers Lais	

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

(Issue price in brackets).

Thornton rises to £732,000

By Geoffrey Foster

GW Thornton, the USM-listed manufacturer of aerospace forgings and hip replacement joints, lifted taxable profits from £51,000 to £732,000 in the year to October 3, while turnover was slightly lower at £8.5 million against £8.6 million.

Earnings per share fell from 14.2p to 12.4p. GW Thornton is paying a 2.25p final dividend, making 3.75p for the year.

The board says the Greenwood Taylor Clark Systems computer services company acquired in November is performing in line with expectations.

Emess Lighting, one of Britain's fastest-growing manufacturers of lighting fixtures and electrical accessories, yesterday announced it had sold its MDC International division, which produces laminated lampshade materials from its plant at Acton, west London, for £1.8 million to its management team led by Mr Paul McCarthy.

Consideration for the sale has been satisfied by the issue to Emess of £1.5 million 7.3 per cent redeemable preference shares 1989-93, with the balance in cash at completion.

MDC had sales of £2.6 million in 1986 and pretax profits of £230,000. The net tangible assets at completion were approximately £800,000. Emess shares closed unaltered at 374p.

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Laithborder Communications, W1	01 437 3385
Mobilephone PLC, Borehamwood	01 207 3636
Motorole Ltd, Slough	0753 78871
Pacebay Services (UK) Ltd, Enfield	01 367 4545
RCS (London) Ltd, N17	01 801 8457
Simsa Security Systems, SE17	01 703 0485

British TELECOM
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NatWest Eurocheques

NatWest announces that with effect from 1 January 1988, the annual charge for a Eurocheque Card will be increased from £3.50 to £4.00, and the charge for each transaction will be increased from 29p to 30p. This is the first increase in these charges since 1985.

Full details of all NatWest Eurocheque charges are available at any NatWest branch.

National Westminster Bank PLC
41 Louthbury, London EC2P 2BP

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dry cargo index 1288.0 -0.5 on 14/12/97 Vol 91 Vol 125 Vol 125 Vol 125
* Estimated dead carcass weight

Portfolio
—Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend	Share Price	Dividend
1	General Whitley	Breweries	100	100	100	100
2	T & S Stores	Draperies, Stores	100	100	100	100
3	Bristol Quaker	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
4	Watson & Philip	Food	100	100	100	100
5	Allied Irish	Bank, Discount	100	100	100	100
6	F&B	Industrial E-K	100	100	100	100
7	Coveralls (an)	Textiles	100	100	100	100
8	Centers 'A'	Draperies, Stores	100	100	100	100
9	Laird	Industrial L-K	100	100	100	100
10	Barclay (S&W)	Food	100	100	100	100
11	Vaux Oil	Breweries	100	100	100	100
12	Alcan	Building, Roads	100	100	100	100
13	Diplomat	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
14	Tarmac (an)	Building, Roads	100	100	100	100
15	Marshall (an)	Newspapers, Pub	100	100	100	100
16	Rolls-Royce (an)	Motor, Aircraft	100	100	100	100
17	Time Products	Draperies, Stores	100	100	100	100
18	Glen Glover	Food	100	100	100	100
19	THORN EMI (an)	Electronics	100	100	100	100
20	Robertson	Building, Roads	100	100	100	100
21	OMC Wireless (an)	Electronics	100	100	100	100
22	Howden	Industrial E-K	100	100	100	100
23	Roller Co	Building, Roads	100	100	100	100
24	Barclay Bank	Industrial E-K	100	100	100	100
25	Sainsbury	Food	100	100	100	100
26	Tesco	Food	100	100	100	100
27	Bank of Scotland	Bank, Discount	100	100	100	100
28	British Har	Industrial E-K	100	100	100	100
29	Bristol	Newspapers, Pub	100	100	100	100
30	Textured Jersey	Textiles	100	100	100	100
31	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
32	Hammerhead	Property	100	100	100	100
33	Besse Mersey	Property, Print, Adv	100	100	100	100
34	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
35	Powell Duffryn	Industrial L-K	100	100	100	100
36	New Caledonia	Property	100	100	100	100
37	Dunelm Hodge	Property	100	100	100	100
38	TNT	Industrial E-K	100	100	100	100
39	Artemis	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
40	Reichardt	Property	100	100	100	100
41	Ashley	Industrial A-D	100	100	100	100
42	Freemant	Draperies, Stores	100	100	100	100
43	TVS	Consumer, TV	100	100	100	100
44	St Ives Op	Property, Print, Adv	100	100	100	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Sunday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS						

1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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Objective test is correct for 'well-founded' fear of refugees seeking asylum

Regin v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Sivakumaran
Same v Same, Ex parte Vithalalingam
Same v Same, Ex parte Vitharajah
Same v Same, Ex parte Vathanan and Another
Same v Same, Ex parte Navaratnam
(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Intervening)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff of Chieveley
[Speeches December 16]

The requirement that an applicant for refugee status should have a "well-founded fear" of persecution if returned to his own country meant that he had to demonstrate, on an objective basis, a reasonable degree of likelihood that he would be persecuted if returned.

The House of Lords allowed appeals by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Sir Rousleya Cumming-Bruce) (The Times October 13, 1987) 3 WLR 1047.

The Court of Appeal had allowed appeals by the applicants, Saravanan Sivakumaran, Sendarajah Vithalalingam, Nadarajah Vitharajah, Navaratnam and Navaratnam, against the refusal by Mr Justice McCowan on September 25 to

grant judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to refuse them leave to enter the United Kingdom.

Mr John Laws and Mr Roger Tarr for the Secretary of State; Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC and Mr Andrew Nicol for Vathanan and Rasalingam; Mr Michael Belfor, QC and Mr Albert Riza for Sivakumaran, Vithalalingam and Vitharajah; Mr K. S. Nathan, QC and Mr George Warr for Navaratnam; Mr Richard Plender for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (intervening by leave of the House of Lords).

LORD KEITH said that the appeals concerned the correct test to apply to determine whether a Tamil from Sri Lanka, who had arrived in this country between February 13 and May 31, was entitled to the status of refugee so as to be enabled, for the time being at least, to remain here.

Each of them, on or shortly after his arrival, had applied for asylum, claiming to be a refugee from Sri Lanka. The Secretary of State had refused the applications.

The question at issue turned on the proper interpretation of article 1A(2) of the United Nations Convention (1951) and Protocol (1967) Relating to the Status of Refugees (Cmd 9171 and Cmd 3096), which provided that the term "refugee" applied to any person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling

to avail himself of the protection of that country."

The United Kingdom having acceded to the Convention and Protocol, their provisions had for all practical purposes been incorporated into domestic law.

Rule 165 of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1983) (HC 169) (made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971) provided: "In accordance with the provisions of the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, a deportation order will not be made against a person if the only country to which he can be removed is one to which he is unwilling to go owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion."

The critical words in article 1A(2) were "well-founded fear" of being persecuted for what might compassively be called a "Convention reason".

The Court of Appeal's view of the meaning of these words had been (1987) 3 WLR 1047, 1652-1053: "Authority apart, we would accept that 'well-founded fear' is demonstrated by proving (a) actual fear and (b) good reason for this fear, looking at the situation from the point of view of one of reasonable courage circumscribed as was the applicant for refugee status."

"Fear is clearly an entirely subjective state experienced by the person who is afraid. The adjective phrase 'well-founded' qualifies, but cannot transform, the subjective nature of the emotion."

"The qualification will exclude fears which can be dis-

missed as paranoid, but we do not understand why it should exclude those which, although fully justified on the face of the situation as it presented itself to the person who was afraid, can be shown objectively to have been misconceived."

A simple, but graphic, example will illustrate our point. A bank cashier confronted with a masked man who points a revolver at him and demands the contents of the till could without doubt claim to have experienced a "well-founded fear". His fears would have been no less well-founded if, one minute later, it emerged that the revolver was a plastic replica or a water pistol."

The Court of Appeal, in quashing the Secretary of State's decision, had proceeded on the basis that he had interpreted "well-founded fear" as meaning that the applicant for refugee status had to establish not only that he in fact feared persecution for a Convention reason but also that the fear was objectively justified. They had held that that had been a misinterpretation and that the Secretary of State should therefore consider the applications anew in the light of what they had decided to be the correct interpretation.

Mr Laws had argued that, while the existence of a state of fear in the applicant was clearly a subjective matter, the question whether the fear was well-founded was to be assessed by the Secretary of State on an objective basis in the light of facts and circumstances known to him or established to his satisfaction. The test was whether in the light of those facts and circumstances there was a real and substantial risk

that the applicant would be persecuted for a Convention reason if returned to the country of his nationality.

That construction found some support in other provisions of the Convention: see article 1C(5) and (6).

The Court of Appeal's formulation would accord refugee status to one whose fears, though genuine, were objectively demonstrated to be misconceived, that is, one who was at no actual risk of persecution for a Convention reason.

The Court of Appeal would qualify that by denying refugee status to one who, while holding a genuine fear, was not a person of reasonable courage, so that his fears were not such as a person of that degree of courage would entertain.

The differentiation meant that the fears of some, but not those of others, would be allowed, and it might be by no means easy to decide what degree of courage a person of ordinary fortitude might be expected to display.

Further, the court's illustration of the bank cashier threatened by an imitation firearm did not truly support the thesis for which it was played in aid.

An objective observer of the scene would agree that at the time when the imitation firearm was presented the cashier's fear was well-founded. Once, however, it became clear that the firearm was an imitation, the fear, if it continued to exist, would no longer be well-founded.

Fear of persecution, in the sense of the Convention, was not to be assimilated to a fear of instant personal danger arising

out of an immediately presented predicament. The claimant to refugee status was not immediately threatened with danger arising out of a situation then confronting him. The question was what might happen if he were to return to the country of his nationality.

He feared that he might be persecuted there. Whether that might happen could only be determined by examining the actual state of affairs in that country. If the examination showed that persecution might indeed take place, then the fear was well-founded. Otherwise, it was not.

The Court of Appeal had found some support for its formulation of the test in a decision of the United States Supreme Court, *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Cardozo-Fonseca* (1987) 107 S Ct 1202, (1987) 94 L Ed 2d 434. In his Lordship's opinion, however, that case did not support the Court of Appeal's formulation but rather favoured that put forward by the Secretary of State.

His Lordship had not found that the *onus preparatus* of the Convention, relied on by Mr Plender, provided helpful guidance as to the meaning of "well-founded fear" or any persuasive indication that the objective approach was erroneous.

In his opinion, the requirement that an applicant's fear of persecution should be well-founded meant that there had to be a reasonable degree of likelihood that he would be persecuted for a Convention reason if returned to his own country: see *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Fernandez* (1971) WLR 987 where Lord Diplock

had referred, at p 994, to: "a predicament of a substantial grounds for thinking, 'a serious possibility'."

If the Court of Appeal's formulation of the test were correct, the Secretary of State's decisions would undoubtedly fall to be quashed. The terms of his decision letters made it clear that he had proceeded on the basis of the objective situation in Sri Lanka as understood by him.

He had taken into account reports of the refugee unit of his department, compiled from sources such as Press articles, journals and Amnesty letters, national publications and also information supplied to him by the Foreign Office and as a result of recent visits to Sri Lanka by ministers.

It was well-known that for a considerable time Sri Lanka, or at least certain parts of that country, had been in a serious state of civil disorder, amounting at times to civil war.

The authorities had taken steps to suppress the disorders and to locate and detain those responsible for them. Those steps, together with the activities of the subversives, had naturally resulted in painful and distressing experiences for many persons innocently caught up in the troubles. As the troubles had occurred principally in areas inhabited by Tamils, those were the people who had suffered most.

The Secretary of State had in his decision letters expressed the view that army activities aimed at discovering and dealing with Tamil extremists did not constitute evidence of persecution of Tamils as such.

That had not been disputed by counsel for any of the applicants, nor had it been seriously maintained that any sub-group of Tamils, such as young males in the north of the country, were being subjected to persecution for any Convention reason.

It appeared that the Secretary of State, while taking the view that neither Tamils generally nor any group of Tamils were being subjected to such persecution, had also considered whether any individual applicant had been so subjected and had decided that none of them had been. Consideration of what had happened in the past had been material for the purpose of assessing the prospects for the future.

It had been argued that the Secretary of State's decision letters did not clearly indicate that he had applied the "real and substantial risk" test but left it open that he might have applied a "more likely than not" test. There was, however, clearly to be gathered from what the Secretary of State had said that in his judgment there existed no past risk of persecution for a Convention reason.

His Lordship would allow the appeals and restore the judge's orders.

Lord Templeman and Lord Goff delivered concurring opinions and Lord Bridge and Lord Griffiths agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Winstanley Burgess (for Sivakumaran); Vithalalingam; Vathanan and Rasalingam; Chatterjee & Co, Southall (for Navaratnam); Fox & Gibbons (for the intervenor).

Tax dodge no bar to insurance claim

Euro-Diam Ltd v Bathurst
Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Russell and Sir Denys Buckley
[Judgment December 8]

The insured under a policy of insurance for a consignment of diamonds to consignees in Germany were entitled to recover the value of diamonds stolen while held by the consignee under a sale-or-return contract and the fact that the insured had issued an invoice showing a lower price for the diamonds than the true one was not a bar to the claim.

There was no warranty implied by law in the policy of insurance to the effect that the adventure insured was a lawful one and that, so far as the assured could control the matter, the adventure could be carried out in a lawful manner.

The Court of Appeal held, in an appeal by the defendant, Mr Andrew Eric Bathurst (representative underwriter), from an order of Mr Justice Staughton (The Times October 3, 1986) 1382-1383. The judge had decided that the plaintiffs, Euro-Diam Ltd, were entitled to recover US\$142,173 from the defendant, being a claim for loss suffered because part of the insured consignment of diamonds was stolen from the consignee company's warehouse in Germany and that a breach of German law by the consignees afforded no defence.

Mr Julian Malins and Mr Andrew Poplewell, for the defendant; Mr Jeffrey Grider for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE KERR said that the plaintiffs were diamond merchants carrying on business in London and their managing director was a Mr Laub. Their insurance cover was in the form of a Lloyd's slip but it was convenient to state its effect as a non-marine policy on goods which covered diamonds and other precious stones.

The basis of valuation was "sendings as per register". The cover was all risks excluding war risks. There was also an extension headed "confiscation and expropriation". That covered, *inter alia*, confiscation and seizure other than by the government or any public or local authority of the sender.

Clause 3 provided: "(a) warranted that the assured comply in all respects with the laws (local or otherwise) of any country within whose jurisdiction the property may be (b) should failure to comply with the above warranties prejudice this insurance to the extent of a loss, no liability shall attach hereunder."

In November 1981 a consignment of diamonds was sent to a firm of German diamond dealers known as Verena GmbH, in Pforzheim, on the request of a Mr Bonim, an Israeli dealer.

On February 2, 1982, a consignment of about 188 carats was sent to Verena on a sale-or-return basis on Mr Bonim's request. That sending was correctly recorded in the plaintiffs' register and it was correctly declared under their policy and they had paid the correct premium for it.

The consignment consisted of 39 diamonds at a total price of £223,416. But at the request of Mr Bonim, when the consignment was sent to Verena by registered post, Mr Laub enclosed an invoice showing the correct number of carats but a price of only \$131,411.

That resulted in a benefit to Verena of a reduction in turnover equalization tax (similar to VAT) which was levied at the rate of 13 per cent on imports of goods into Germany. The reduction was about \$11,560.

On May 10, 1982, Verena sent seven post-dated cheques totalling \$70,000 to the plaintiffs in purported part-payment of that consignment but all were subsequently dishonoured.

On May 14, a package containing about 95 carats from the February consignment, and the small residue of the November consignment disappeared from Verena's premises.

That gave rise to various issues below but the only remaining issue on appeal was whether the plaintiffs' claim under the insurance policy was

barred because of the false invoice. Mr Laub knew that the invoice would probably be used to deceive the German customs.

Such deceit was, not surprisingly, treated as criminal under the laws of the Federal Republic, as Mr Laub would obviously have realized. Verena in fact used the invoice in order to deceive the German customs. The consequences under German law were that both the plaintiffs and Verena had committed criminal offences and that the diamonds became liable to confiscation.

The issue whether the plaintiffs' claim failed on the ground that it was tainted with illegality turned on considerations of public policy. The answer should depend on (a) the nature and quality of Mr Laub's act, (b) its manifest illegality under the laws of the country to which he exported the diamonds, (c) the fact that that made them liable to confiscation, and (d) whether or not any of those matters had any relevant consequences for the defendant in relation to the plaintiffs' claim.

His Lordship agreed with the judge's conclusion that the *ex turpi causa non oritur actio* defence, that is, the defence that an action arose out of a disgraceful (illegal or immoral) matter, failed in the present case. The reasons were as follows:

A Mr Laub's issue of the understated invoice was undoubtedly reprehensible. He realized that it would probably be used to deceive the German customs and his action was criminal under the laws of the Federal Republic.

But he did not issue the invoice for his own or the plaintiffs' purposes but at the request of Mr Bonim. The understated invoice also involved no deception of the insurers since the true value of the diamonds was recorded in the plaintiffs' register and the correct premium was paid. In those circumstances there could be no question of any affront to the public conscience.

B The plaintiffs did not have to rely on the invoice to establish their claim since the policy provided that the basis of valuation should be as per register, and since the plaintiffs' register contained a correct record of the value.

C The plaintiffs did not derive any tangible benefit from the invoice.

D As between the plaintiffs and Verena it was difficult to see how Verena could successfully rely on the *ex turpi causa* defence in relation to almost any claim by the plaintiffs against Verena.

Mr Bonim would clearly have to be treated as having acted on behalf of Verena in asking for the understated invoice. In any event Verena must be treated as having ratified his conduct when they used it to deceive the German customs.

It followed that on the question of public policy and the relative culpability of the parties the scales would be heavily weighted against Verena. They alone made a tangible profit out of the transaction.

The defendant's second submission was that the policy was subject to a warranty implied by law to the same effect as section 41 of the Marine Insurance Act 1906, namely, that the adventure insured was a lawful one and that so far as the assured could control the matter, the adventure must be carried out in a lawful manner.

The policy here was not a marine policy. It was a policy on goods and did not insure any adventure: see *Moore v Evans* (1918) AC 185. No implication of a warranty by statute could accordingly arise. Nor was there any basis for the implication of such a warranty as common law.

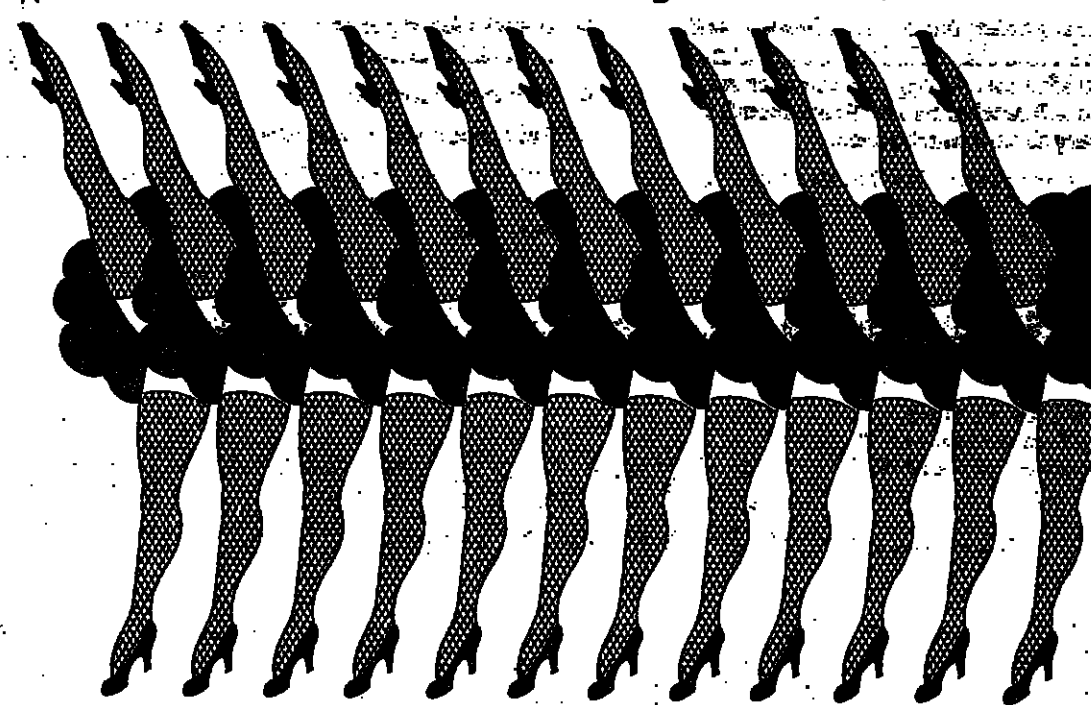
In the field of insurance a warranty was a term whose breach discharged the insurer from liability even if the breach was unconnected with the loss.

In the present case nothing less would do for the defendant since the issue of the understated invoice had no connection with the theft.

Lord Justice Russell and Sir Denys Buckley agreed. Solicitors: Clyde & Co, Ince & Co.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 17, 1987

Profitable sales are the bedrock of the successful company. This applies whether the company manufactures its own product range, buys in and factors, or is selling a service. Service industries have, of course, grown considerably since the decline of industry generally from the early 1970s. And the recession taught British companies generally to cut their fat and address the future in a more purposeful and professional manner.

Quality improvement programmes became part of the day-to-day life of many companies with key phrases such as "Get it right first time" reflecting this new vigour.

Meeting the customer's requirements is now rightly considered of paramount importance and a prerequisite to not only gaining the initial order but also keeping the customer in the future. But the key person in the final analysis is always the salesperson.

The greatest single profit drain in most companies is an untrained sales force, very frequently led by an untrained manager, who in turn is sometimes reporting to a sales director with no understanding of training.

The image of a salesman as someone with innate ability who

develops his own style persists, yet good salesmen are made, not born. To take an "average" sales force, there are perhaps 5 per cent who possess natural selling skills, a few who are not really effective at all, and the vast majority - around 80 per cent - who are average. Even the best people need their skills fine-tuned from time to time so it is surprising that few companies take a systematic and objective approach to training.

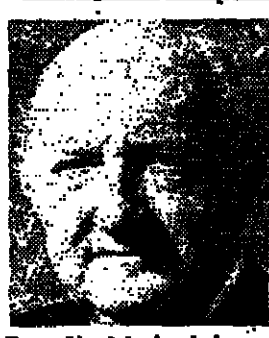
General, untailored training is of minimal value. In my opinion, 90 per cent of management training is too academic, too theory-orientated and not commercial enough. In any case, a "one-off" course is not the answer. Training without follow-up produces minimal return on investment. Reinforcement of the training message means that the skills and techniques learnt will actually be implemented, rather than gradually ignored.

Management techniques are not difficult to learn but management is more than just technique - it is about leading, motivating, training and controlling people.

And selling today is much more than securing orders. In one sense selling is easy. Anyone sent out with a bag of samples will sooner or later come back with an order.

Peter Youdale: Most management training in Britain is too academic

Good communicators are the force behind the skilful sales team



Peter Youdale is chairman and chief executive of the Fibrac Group, the UK's largest management consultancy specialising in sales training and method

But this ignores another component and that is productivity.

Only one company in 100 specifies the standards of performance for sales people that will be considered acceptable by senior management. Although 60 per cent of all companies provide job descriptions - most of them very brief - only 1 per cent of companies specify the standard of performance required against the elements of these descriptions.

A company's sales results can be improved by between 20 and 200

per cent by introducing and/or developing sales control principles and techniques, and this, of course, requires the training not of the sales force but of the management. That means from chief executive downwards. Let's face it, the sales director is as in need of leadership, motivation, and control as is the sales force itself.

An effective sales force is commercially aware. Surveys of more than 2,500 British companies conducted over the years show the most common problem as

being lack of internal communication. A commercially aware sales force can be groomed through good internal communication. Simple measures such as ensuring that the cost accountant attends sales meetings from time to time, and that marketing people attend production meetings, for instance, can add dramatically to the overall commercial acumen of the company.

It has been claimed that British bosses are amateurs on the world stage when compared with those

in the United States, West Germany, Japan and France. This sweeping statement is untrue. However, it is bad communication that gives the appearance of amateurism, and this is something that can be cured by good and consistent training.

The art of management lies in persuading other people to want to do whatever it is that one wishes them to do. An effective communicator is far

more likely to succeed in this respect. The reticence with which we today use the word "salesman" is indicative of our negative attitude towards what should be perceived as a skilled profession. Trendy parlance is borrowed from the media world and we now have many more account executives, consultants or business development executives - almost any euphemism is used to avoid mentioning that seemingly derogatory word "sales".

There is an urgent need to reappraise the salesperson's role and to raise the status of selling to a level relevant to its importance within industry.

It is apparent that many more chief executives these days do perceive the value of training in sales organization and method but there is still an attitude prevailing in some quarters that training is an expensive "extra".

But senior management cannot afford to ignore the sales force. When one considers that the cost of a salesperson is anywhere between £30,000 and £50,000, it is apparent that training is an investment which no commercially aware and progressive company should ignore.

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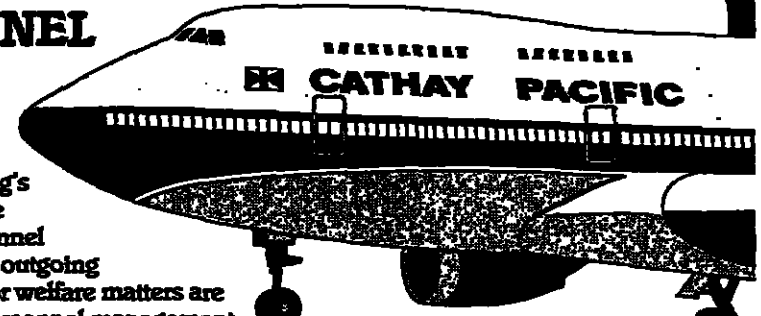
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Head of Hospitality London

The British Council is an independent body which promotes Britain abroad. It promotes British ideas, skills and experience - in education, the English language, the arts, the sciences and technology. We have a vacancy for an experienced person as **Head of Hospitality**. The successful applicant will lead a small section responsible for arranging lunches, receptions, dinners, theatre visits etc. He or she must have a good working knowledge of food and wines, protocol and the dietary restrictions of other nationalities. He or she will be required to liaise with caterers, wine merchants, livery halls, hotels and restaurants and to supervise the stock of equipment, linen and wines and spirits.

Applicants should have a good general education and at least 2 years recent experience in official entertainment and/or catering.

In addition to the starting salary of \$8,777 there is an accountable dress allowance of up to £200.

For further information, Staff Recruitment Booklet and an application form, write quoting G/5 to Personnel Management Department, 65 Davies Street, London W1T 2AA.

Closing date for applications is 14 January 1988.

The British Council is an equal opportunities employer.




Change of Direction

Join us, Gerry Bennett and Peter Richards. We were frustrated Sales Managers, now we are earning a substantial five figure income within a large £multi-million financial institution.

We are now looking for two people aged between 27 and 50 living within a 30 mile radius of London, earning between £15-30,000 to join our sales force in a planned expansion programme in the financial services industry, to develop their own practice.

We are an equal opportunities Group. Applicants are welcome regardless of sex, marital status, ethnic origin or disability.

Telephone us at Allied Dealer Assurance plc Monday-Friday between 9.30am and 6.00pm on 01 637 7200



01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

Graduates Teaching: Your future, their future

There are few careers that can offer the same variety, responsibility and interest as teaching. Choosing to teach is a decision that affects not just your life, but the lives of hundreds of young people.

Current developments in the school curriculum add a new dimension to the challenge of teaching as a career. It aims to prepare children for a fast changing society, so it's more exciting and more relevant than ever before.

Your class could be designing and implementing an automatic door opening system for disabled people.

Discovering how to use the latest data capture techniques in speed measurement experiments. Or learning first hand the wide responsibilities of running and running a mini-company.

We're seeking to attract graduates who will take a one year PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) to teach in craft design and technology (CDT), technology, maths, physics and business studies in secondary schools. A relevant degree

discipline is important, although in some areas there's now a new 2-year course, for people with a scientific or numerate background to their degree, to train to teach physics, maths or CDT. What's more, for graduates training to teach CDT, technology, maths or physics, there's a special bursary scheme, which means an extra £1250 tax free in addition to your student grant.

If you'd like to take a look at the challenge and variety of teaching in England and Wales, please send

for our TASC information pack, covering these subjects and giving full details of the PGCE, bursary, grants and salaries.

Either call, free of charge, our Linkline Teaching as a Career Information Line on 0800 400 448, or fill in the coupon below and send it to Kate James, TASC Publicity Unit, London SE9 6XE.

TASC
TEACHING AS A CAREER

Please send me the TASC Information Pack.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Teaching: A career with more to offer



SAMSONITE
IS REALLY GOING PLACES
AND WE NEED A

SALES OFFICE SUPERVISOR

WITH A DYNAMIC,
STRONG PERSONALITY
TO ENSURE WE KEEP TRAVELLING
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

London's Dockland £ negotiable

The Company
The world's leading manufacturer of luggage and travel goods, SAMSONITE is also number one in the British market. Our extremely active sales office in London is staffed by a highly professional, well qualified team who maintain close links with Samsonite's European Headquarters in Belgium.

The Position
We now have a vacancy in our U.K. sales team for a dynamic Sales Office Supervisor. Reporting directly to the U.K. Sales Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of our sales office based in London. This is a strategic position with responsibility for all aspects of order processing, and you will be in charge of four highly competent sales assistants. With a powerful computer system to take care of the routine work, you will be able to concentrate on the essential tasks of building solid and lasting relationships with Samsonite clients in close cooperation with our field sales team.

The Rewards
□ All the advantages of working for a strong, soundly based multinational company.
□ A salary which will reflect your true worth.
□ A key position which could be your springboard to a successful career in a company which appreciates and rewards sound commercial sense and a talent for organisation.

The Person
We are looking for someone who is:
□ between 28 and 35 years old preferably with a broadly based education and a diploma in business or commercial studies or equivalent qualification;
□ an enthusiastic sales personality combining a definite inclination for organisation, orderliness and accuracy with an aptitude for leadership;
□ self-reliant, able to work without supervision and quick to take the initiative when required.

Applications
If the idea of a challenging yet highly rewarding job with attractive career prospects appeals to you, then you could be the very person we are looking for. Written applications should be sent to our Belgian consultants at the address given below, enclosing a copy of your CV and a recent photograph. Preliminary interviews will be held in London.

DE WITTE & MOREL
Personnel Consultants
Kortrijksesteenweg 639 - 9000 Ghent - Belgium
Tel. (01032)91 22 26 95 - Fax (01032)91 21 23 55



TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Infotron Systems Ltd are a continually expanding U.K. company, who specialise in the sale and service of a wide range of sophisticated data communications equipment and networks. We anticipate our operation growing by around 40% next year, and with this in view, we wish to employ another Training Instructor at our premises in Dorchester, Dorset.

The ideal applicant should be aged mid/late 20's and have come from an engineering background. A knowledge of data communications would be desirable but experience in a training role is essential.

We are offering an excellent working environment and a competitive salary to the right person, along with private health cover, company pension scheme and life assurance. Please apply in writing, enclosing a copy of current C.V. to:

Mrs G. Llewellyn,
Infotron Systems Ltd,
Systems House,
Poundbury Road,
Dorchester,
Dorset DT1 1TQ.



BRITISH PARAPLEGIC SPORTS SOCIETY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

circa £18,000

The BPPS is a well established charity with two main functions:
- To act as the national governing body for wheelchair sport for spinally injured, promoting active sport as part of a full and healthy life for those confined to wheelchairs.
- To operate and develop the Ludwig Guttmann Sports Stadium Complex at Aylesbury.

The new Chief Executive will have full responsibility for managing and developing all activities reporting back to the Directors. He/She will have a track record of achievement; be able to demonstrate an ability to lead from the front; be commercially aware and be able to communicate with and relate to people at every level.

This is an exciting and rewarding post.

For further details please contact:

Miss J. Scruton MBE
Director/Secretary General
The British Paraplegic Sports Society
PO Box 195
Aylesbury (Tel: (0296) 84848)
Buckinghamshire

MANAGING DIRECTOR

For Green Group Furniture Limited - Britain's finest independent furniture buying group.

Green Group Furniture Limited is a central buying organisation owned by 56 independent furniture retailers, with over 100 retail outlets in locations all over the United Kingdom. From its Head Quarters in West London, Green Group Furniture Limited is responsible for selection, selection and purchasing of merchandise, sales liaison, central accounting and all other relevant retail services.

We wish to appoint a Managing Director whose qualities of leadership and skills in retailing will enable us to continue to pursue our policies and objectives. The person we appoint will play a key role in the future planning and development of the Group. The Managing Director is expected to be accessible to Group members and suppliers at all times and should have the experience to be able to offer practical retailing and marketing advice to members on an individual basis. He or she will be totally responsible for the day to day running of the Group, will exercise financial management in respect of our budgets and resources and lead and supervise our team of staff. The job requires a committed and professional person with excellence in all round management skills. In return we offer a unique, demanding and fulfilling job, currently based at the Group's Head Office in West London, which in addition offers an employment package including attractive salary, pension, medical care, health insurance and other fringe benefits.

Written applications only with full personal and career details should be submitted to:

The Chairman
Green Group Furniture Limited
156a Uxbridge Road
West London W13 9AU

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Are you ambitious?

Do you seek independence, high income and management?

I am looking for 25 people between the ages of 21 to 35 to start a new career for 1988.

Call Ian Harrison on
01 954 9601

NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITY

Assistant required part or full time. Mature, cheerful person to help antique dealer in W1. Reliability and willingness to learn essential.

Please phone: 01-408 0177
between 10am - 6pm.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

ADEN - up to £36,000 P.A.
To prepare estimates, bills of quantities, interim valuations, accounts. Must hold A.R.C.S. qualification and have 5 years experience, own your single status contract with free accommodation, training and leave every 4 months. To start 12 January 1988. Contact Richard Brooks & Partners Ltd, Suite 1, 45 High Street, London E14 4JH. Tel 01-477-1712/1713.

PIERO de MONZI

Requires experienced sales assistant
TELEPHONE
01-581 4247
10.00 - 6.00 pm

Are you an entrepreneur, creative, energetic, and able to take responsibility for your own actions? If so, please contact 01-408 0177.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL LIAISON

Applications are invited for this senior appointment in the University, in succession to Mr. G.B. Thomson, CBE. The Director will head the Industrial Liaison Service which is the University's prime agency for enabling and managing a wide range of research and other activities carried out collaboratively between industry and University departments and staff. Candidates should have sound experience of industry in a senior managerial capacity. Previous working experience in a University, though desirable, is not essential.

Salary and conditions of appointment will be negotiable. The expectation is that the appointment will be made on a full-time basis but part-time appointment of an exceptional candidate will be considered.

Applications with C.V. (6 copies) including the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent not later than Friday 8 January 1988 to The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, telephone Dundee (0382) 23181 ext. 4015. Please quote reference EST/37/87.

MANAGER - INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

PITA is the United Kingdom's Paper and Board Industry Technical Association with offices located in Surrey. The present manager will retire in 1988 and the executive committee of PITA seeks a mature person experienced in industry affairs to take responsibility for managing the Association.

Some knowledge of the paper and board industry would be an advantage. Good administrative, inter-personal and communication skills are essential. Age is not critical but managerial ability and enthusiasm are vital. A salary and benefits package will be negotiated to suit the successful candidate.

Send CV in confidence to

Don Atwood,
PITA Chairman, Pira,
Rendalls Road,
Leatherhead,
Surrey, KT22 7RU

ROSY PARIS

Rosy, one of France's leading lingerie companies, has been growing rapidly in the U.K. and due to expansion of our sales force, we now require

TWO REPRESENTATIVES

with drive, determination and enthusiasm to develop existing and new business in the key territories of

1. SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
2. SOUTH WEST ENGLAND/SOUTH WALES

Applicants must be self-motivated, with good experience of and connections with Department stores and independent quality lingerie retailers. A good salary/commission package, plus company car and usual benefits is offered. Please reply, in confidence, with full C.V. to:

J.A. Pattison, Sales Director-Lingerie
Dm-Rosy UK Ltd
Unit 2A, Whitby Avenue, Park Royal,
London NW10 7SG

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE

This new division of a leading U.K. sign manufacturing company, formed in early 1987 to introduce into the U.K. market an exciting new U.S. designed 3D external illuminated sign system for retail premises, requires an experienced sales person who can provide the driving force for the next stage of expansion.

This position, reporting to the Sales Director, will carry responsibility for the planning and execution of sales targets and offers short term career development opportunities in a rapidly expanding strongly based company.

The successful applicant will have a proven track record in the development of new projects from inception to completion via designers, specifiers and end users, to be totally self motivated and expect career progress related to their personal success.

The company offers a first class remuneration package including profit related bonus, BUPA and company car to reflect the calibre of the individual required.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:

T. Tenyson,
Office Services Manager,
Aceface Awnings,
A Division of
A.C. Edwards Ltd,
Monro Ind. Est.
Station Approach,
Waltham Cross EN8 7LX



Project Accountant

Newly/Recently Qualified
ACA/ACMA/ACCA

Central London £20,000

Gain exposure to four different financial environments before specialising within this rapidly expanding Top 5 energy multinational. In order to build upon the experience you already have from Public Practice or Industry, you will participate in the in-house management training scheme. Your first 2 years will be spent working for the respective controllers of 4 different departments for 6 months apiece, undertaking a wide variety of analytical projects.

Subsequent to 2 years training, you will have the option to select your next career move from a wide range of business areas. These include corporate strategy, treasury, sales/marketing and subsidiary controllership either in the UK or overseas.

Please contact NICOLA LENDRUM Ref: 3389
ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA. Tel: 01-404 3155.

Alderwick
& Peachell
PARTNERS LTD.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

COMPUTER SALES

MAINFRAME LEASING

**£30,000 REALISTIC EARNINGS
BASE NEGOTIABLE**

Widely recognised as the leader in the field of mainframe leasing, this aggressive organisation is seeking sales professionals to join their highly successful sales force. Selling into the corporate marketplace, successful candidates must demonstrate an outstanding plus record within the sales environment, and a familiarity with board level negotiations with both financial and D.P. personnel. The most important quality is tenacity and the ability to identify and capitalise on new opportunities as they arise. As you would expect this marketplace is extremely competitive and demands both tenacity and a will to succeed. Call Fiona Barber now on 01-409 2844 or evenings on 0734-312776. IB 4368

OFFICE SYSTEMS

**£40,000 OTE GUARANTEE
QUALITY CAR**

This consistently successful manufacturer is undergoing a major expansion programme resulting in vacancies for professional sales executives. Addressing the Departmental systems environment which is currently growing at 30% per annum, candidates will be required to sell the company's Unix based range of mainframe computer solutions into vertical markets such as Finance, Retail, Defence, Local and Central Government, Health and Manufacturing. Naturally similar product knowledge or specific vertical market experience would be beneficial but not essential. To qualify candidates should have a minimum of three years experience selling DP applications, a successful sales track record and should be self-motivated and enthusiastic. This ideal opportunity to join a reputable manufacturer should not be missed, call Jane Ratcliffe immediately on 01-409 2844 anytime or evenings on 01-785 9065. IB 4511

GLOBAL NETWORKS

**£45,000 + OTE
BASE TO £25,000**

As a market leader within the field of Global communications, this company is seeking additional top flight sales professionals, to sell the company's proven networking and systems expertise and consultancy services. As a key member of this forward thinking organisation you will be expected to conduct board level negotiations with major corporate clients within a variety of markets including Banking and Securities, Services and Trade and Industry. Naturally, a proven sales track record is mandatory. A knowledge of the concept of Global communications is obviously advantageous although the most important factor is the ability to sell concepts and provide solutions to meet clients requirements. If you believe you qualify for these prestigious positions, call Fiona Barber on 01-409 2844 daytime or 0734-312776 evenings. IB 4488

6th Floor, Empire House, 175 Piccadilly, London W1Z 9DB

Telephone: 01-409 2844 (24 hours)

Evening phone numbers (until 10pm) 0734-312776/01-785 9065



Unit General Manager

Psychiatric Services

**£24,610 + opportunity to earn
Performance Related Pay**

South Bedfordshire Health Authority wishes to appoint a Unit General Manager who will not only manage its present Psychiatric Services, providing the most effective service possible, but be capable of developing a comprehensive locally-based community-oriented service to meet the needs of our local population. In addition, this Unit General Manager must have the skills necessary to encourage the establishment of such services in two neighbouring districts.

If you have the ability to lead and achieve change in provision of services to mentally ill people, to involve a wide range of agencies and individuals in that change and to promote mental health, then ring Christine Love, Director of Personnel, for further written information. Potential candidates who wish to discuss the post are welcome to contact Derek Smith, District General Manager.

Applications, including details of your career and achievements to date, should be sent to: Mrs L. C. Love, Director of Personnel, South Bedfordshire Health Authority, Bate House, 7 Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds. LU1 1BS, Tel: (0528) 37121, ext. 311. Not later than 11 January 1988.



DESIGNERS / VISUALISERS

EXHIBITION DESIGNER: We require a designer who has the ambition and flair to succeed with a new group of companies that will challenge the market leaders.

VISUALISER: Can you produce slick visuals? Well, we offer a creative challenge, opportunity to develop, on an outstanding variety of projects.

Also we require DRAUGHTPERSON to produce accurate working drawings on various projects.

Are you interested?

We are new, but not too new. Established, but still learning.

Definitely heading for the top at the M.D. & E. Ltd Group of Companies.

Write to us today and start a challenge that could take you to the top.

Modular Designs & Exhibitions
Unit 7
Nimrod Way
Elgar Road
READING RG2 0EB



SUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH

ARE YOU A SENIOR EXECUTIVE SEEKING A NEW APPOINTMENT?

We are the professionals who can advise and help you. Since 1980, Connaught's executive clients have accessed unadvertised vacancies, obtained interviews, found the right jobs and reduced job search time. Contact us for an exploratory meeting. It is without charge and we will tell you if we can help and at what cost, it may be easier than you think. If you are currently abroad, enquire about our Executive Expert Service.

32 Savile Row, London W1X 1AG

Tel: 01-734 3879 (24 hours)

Connaught

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

We are a rapidly growing firm of Corporate Strategy Consultants based in new offices in Belgrave. We need an enterprising young individual to operate and manage our desktop publishing system in a newly established Production Department.

Candidates should have good WP experience, keyboard skills and knowledge of business formats. You should be investigative, creative and enjoy working with computers and graphics. We are looking for a hard-worker with good communication and planning skills. A knowledge of Unix is helpful but not a must. If you have initiative, are versatile and well organised and deserve a good salary please send CV to Janet Davies:

14 Grosvenor Crescent

London SW1X 7EE

ARCHITECT SALES

Design Computing is an expanding UK software Company specialising in the development of Computer Systems for Architects. It is very important that the company's products be presented to Architects by Architects. We are seeking a young Architect to represent us in the Home counties, North of London. A good understanding of Computer Aided Design would be useful, together with some sales experience. O.T.E. package £25000

For further details write to:-

Debi Bass

Design Computing Ltd

Second Floor, Clifton Heights

Clifton, Bristol. BS8 1EJ

THE WOODLAND TRUST

requires an experienced professional and administrator for a

SENIOR MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENT

Based at Grafton, the successful applicant will be a member of the Trust's Woodland Management Department. He/she will be responsible for a current complement of 16 permanent staff organising woodland acquisition and management nationally.

The post represents an opportunity to contribute at a senior level to the future development and further success of this conservation charity.

The Woodland Trust aims to safeguard the future of a vital part of the national heritage by acquiring and managing, in perpetuity, native and broadleaved woods throughout Britain. The Trust now owns and cares for over 8000 acres in nearly 300 sites and acquires around 50 new sites a year.

Applicants must be at least 28 years old with several years' land or property management experience, and must have had responsibility for staff and administration. Starting salary is likely to be in the range of £12,500 to £15,000, but for an outstanding candidate the salary could be up to £17,500.

Please apply for a full job specification, quoting Reference (10) to: The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dymock Road, Grafton, Gloucestershire GL6 6LL. Telephone: (0478) 74297

This post is grant-aided by the Countryside Commission.

BICC-VERO ELECTRONICS LIMITED

SOUTHAMPTON

One of the forerunners in the design and manufacture of electronic packaging enclosures urgently seeks to appoint an

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER

who will have a key role within the Design Team, both developing new products and in preparation of presentation material. The successful applicant will be expected to have a recognised Industrial Design qualification, together with a minimum of two years' relevant experience. He/she must be able to communicate at all levels in presentation, creative and innovative design ideas, be enthusiastic and a self-starter.

The Company occupies large modern premises between Southampton and Winchester and therefore is able to offer easy access to the New Forest and South Coast yachting facilities.

Anyone with the expertise and enthusiasm which we need should apply in writing, together with a CV to: Personnel Manager, BICC-VERO Electronics Ltd., Electron Way, Chandler's Ford, SO5 3ZR.



PARKER PROFESSIONAL SALES PERSON

Continuing our planned expansion, we wish to recruit a Professional Sales Person to sell Contractors Hand Tools, Protective Clothing, Road Safety Equipment and Janitorial Products to the Building and Civil Engineering Industry, Public Utilities and Councils.

The sales territory covers the City and East End of London. This exciting prospect for the person with drive, tenacity and ambition offers a rare opportunity to develop his/her career with a national company that is a market leader in its field.

A competitive salary and commission structure is offered together with a company car, expenses and the usual benefits associated with a company of our size. Please apply in writing to:

R. Williams, Manager, FRANK PARKER & CO. LTD.

185 FOREST ROAD

ILFORD, ESSEX

IG6 3HU

Tel: 01-500 9011



COMPUTER GRAPHICS OPERATOR (Part-time)

We are a rapidly growing firm of Corporate Strategy Consultants based in new offices in Belgrave. We need part-time operators to assist our production department on some of the latest and most sophisticated desktop publishing software. Hours of work will be evenings and weekends.

Candidates should have good typing skills, enjoy working with computers, have good communication skills, be versatile and possess a commitment for an assigned project. If you are interested please call Janet Davies on (01) 235-9010 for more information.

THE RETREAT, YORK

Applications are invited for the new post of

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

at this 190 bed Quaker independent registered psychiatric Nursing Home.

The applicant should be a Friend or someone with knowledge of, and commitment to, the work and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends.

For further details, apply to the Chairman, Management Committee:

Roger Gilbert, 'Farnroyd'

St Margaret's Road, ALTRINGHAM

Cheshire, WA4 2BW

(Telephone 061 928 5112)

Closing Date for Applications: 12th February, 1988.

LETTINGS MANAGER

- Are you experienced in the residential letting and management business?
- Have you the drive and enthusiasm to lead a dedicated team?
- Can you survive in one of the most high profit and competitive areas in London?
- Do you expect to be rewarded for hard work?
- Would like to hear from you if you answered yes to these questions.

Ring Stephen Bore on 01 731 3111



SALES EXECUTIVE, CAREER OPPORTUNITY

£12,000 neg basic salary, car, expenses, and realistic target bonus means that the successful applicant can expect to be in the £25 - £30,000 per earnings bracket by the end of 12 months. The Group are market leaders in the rapidly expanding specialised field of environmental hygiene services sold at executive level to industry and commerce. The ideal candidate will be in the Home Counties/Midlands and carry exceptional management prospects with a possible later U.S.A. relocation opportunity. Initial interviews will be carried out locally.

Reply to: Winton Group Managing Director

Winton Group Ltd.

Medfield House,

Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 2BT



TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVES

are required for

THE TIMES THE SUNDAYTIMES

Are you bright, dynamic, hardworking, enthusiastic and determined?

If so, you could be just who we are looking for.

Our Classified department is so successful that, during the last 18 months, we have more than doubled the amount of classified advertising we carry in our titles, and we're not going to stop there!

Due to promotions within the department, we are now looking for energetic salespeople to join our team.

You should be aged between 20 and 30, well educated, smart, with some commercial experience and must type at least 35 wpm.

We will give you fully comprehensive training, a starting salary of £9,000 pa (reviewed after 3 months) and the opportunity to earn at least £3,000 pa bonus. Free Medical Insurance and generous holiday entitlement, together with many other benefits, complete the package.

Ring Sue Powell or Gill Sage during office hours next week, to tell us why you should be part of our winning team.

01-822 9343

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

£10-12,000 + bonus

We are a dynamic expanding City based company specialising in the recruitment of personnel for the Financial Services Industry. We require a sales orientated graduate in the mid 20's who has two years successful work experience. Please telephone Raymond Black.

01-588-6615

BECOME AN ESTATE AGENT

W London/Midddx

Fast growing firm eleven sales offices and needs a motivated negotiator to sell houses. The company could well suit a company representative, preferably in the mid 20's with two years successful work experience. Please telephone Raymond Black.

Tel: Tony Relf (0823) 242424

IF...

You are ambitious, honest, single-minded, intelligent, imaginative, clear thinking, enthusiastic and are going to make something of life, call:

01 379 7185

EXECUTIVE SALES PERSON

with 20 years' experience to sell our specialist decorative building materials to architects, interior decorators, etc. Must be a self-starter, with a proven track record in sales. Please apply to: The Executive Sales Person, 400 Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, Middx. UB8 3PH.

FUTURE/COMMUNITY

brokers require business. Self motivated, energetic, single-minded, with a proven track record in sales. Please apply to: The Executive Sales Person, 400 Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, Middx. UB8 3PH.

A direct line to the executive shortlist

To secure the best appointments at a senior level needs more than good advice, accurate objectives and sound presentation. InterExec not only provides career advice, but also a unique service to bridge the critical gap between counselling and the right job. Why waste time and money on unproductive letters?

InterExec clients do not need to find or apply for appointments. Over 50 full-time staff with over 5000 unadvertised vacancies p.a. enable InterExec to offer the only confidential Executive placement service. What is each unproductive day costing you?

For an exploratory meeting without obligation, Telephone InterExec on 01-930 5041/7

A member of the Career Development & Outplacement Division

London House, 19 Clarendon Road, London WC2H 0ES

InterExec SM

The one who stands out

Frustrated?

Promotions and income restricted?

Now there's an alternative

Due to expansion

SALES MANAGERS and

CONSULTANTS needed.

Full training/backing given.

Ring Alfred Corran or

Berry Shaw,

01 840 1840

SALES MANAGER

able to motivate and monitor all aspects of a sales force.

able to motivate and monitor distributors.

A generous salary and benefits with an excellent bonus scheme.

Apply in writing with full CV to: Managing Director

Medical Wire and

Equipment

(Bath) Ltd, Poley,

Corsham, Wiltshire,

SN13 9RT

SWITCHED ON?

As a leading company in the

Consumer Electronics we are seeking a

single minded individual to carry out a

new company role of sales and marketing

new products to our existing and

potential customers. The successful

candidate will be responsible for the

development of the sales and marketing

department and will be responsible for

the achievement of sales targets and

the development of new products and

services. The successful candidate will

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the sales and marketing department

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Davy Corporation plc

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BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

Diverse Backgrounds

Same Destination

National & Provincial is one of the largest financial services groups in the UK. We are also one of the most ambitious. The recent appointment of three Executive Directors has established a young, innovative decision-making team, who between them bring to the organisation a wealth of experience in Merchant Banking, Insurance, International Banking and Treasury. Having initiated a review of our business, the result is an aggressive growth programme which harnesses these resources and will strengthen our position as a major provider of personal financial services.

National & Provincial will effect these strategic changes by appointing high calibre individuals to the Treasury and Accounts Functions.



Ben Thompson-McCausland
Age: 49 years
His combination of leadership skills in the City, broad commercial experience, and keen perception of the future of the finance industry has created the dynamic outlook now lifting the society to new heights of achievement.



Kenneth Andrew
Age: 42 years
Having held several key marketing posts within a big four clearing bank, he moved on to become the Vice President and Marketing Director of an international bank. Here he won recognition as the driving force behind a highly successful European consumer business—advancing from inception to profitability within a year.



Terry Carroll
Age: 39 years
The youngest member of the team, he started his career as a Chartered Accountant, before moving to a leading society as Management Accountant. He then joined a top London stockbroker to establish a new department dealing in gilts with Building Societies. He then left to become Treasurer with one of the world's largest Building Societies.

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Now National & Provincial Commercial Director

Now National & Provincial Finance Director

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Management Accountant

You will develop integrated financial control systems to enable tight budgetary control; meet reporting requirements and provide detailed information on unit, product and customer profitability. Other responsibilities include: projections, forecasting and modelling; capital adequacy monitoring; capital investment decision analysis; evaluation of financial implications of Corporate Strategies.

Financial Accountant

As well as an important role in developing integrated control systems, your responsibilities will include: reporting to management, regulators and the public on a daily through to annual basis; production of statutory accounts and statements; routine bank, bookkeeping and payment requirements; liaison with auditors. In addition you will be required to develop and maintain systems of accounting for new business and the consolidation of subsidiaries and associates.

Taxation Accountant

Your main task will be for compliance and planning aspects of taxation including Corporation and Income tax, PAYE, MIRAS and VAT. There is a developing need to plan for and manage the taxation implications of subsidiaries, associates and overseas operations.

Treasury Management Opportunities

Recent changes to Building Society legislation have created new and exciting opportunities for the industry but only those teams who change their formations and tactics will benefit from the rule changes.

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This creates a number of exciting management opportunities which give the right individuals the chance to share in and influence the process.

We are seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals with skills that complement those of our existing team. To succeed, you should have experience in one or more of the following areas: Money Markets, Bond Markets, Off-Balance Sheet or Capital Markets.

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It is an academic college conducting a varied educational programme, a scientific organisation committed to a wide range of collaborative research projects in the field of medicine, and an independent institution that publishes reports, submits recommendations and gives advice—to governments, the public and the profession.
The College moved to its Regent's Park home in 1964 which now provides a headquarters, a meeting place and a conference and examination centre. It is a modern building yet evokes the College's rich history and traditions on all public and ceremonial floors.
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Day to day work of the Appeal Office involves: identifying prospects and generating, making approaches, and coordinating approaches by letters, telephone, visits, follow-up systems; creating the lead and duplicating the bank of fund-raising projects; preparing and producing appeal literature; supervising advertising and public relations activities; organising and attending meetings (Appeal Committees, functions and special events).
The Secretary/Assistant should have good general knowledge, accurate spelling and be a self-starter. Previous fund-raising experience is not essential, but getting on with people.

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The successful candidate will be directly responsible to the Head of the Training Office but will also work as a secretary to the "Lunch Fellow" who is a College Officer and Medical Coordinator of the Kent Committee for Higher Medical Training. The appointee will therefore enhance the close link between these two roles.
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YACHTING

Full steam ahead as Fay steers into 1988

San Diego (Reuter) — When representatives from San Diego and New Zealand met on Tuesday in an attempt to settle their differences over an America's Cup defence next year they could only bitterly agree to disagree further.

Michael Fay, the New Zealand financier, and his attorney, Andrew Johns, met Malin Burnham, the chief operating officer of the Sail America Foundation, and San Diego Yacht Club officials for the first time since a judge upheld New Zealand's challenge, forcing an America's Cup defence next year.

A New York judge ruled last month that the holders must accept New Zealand's 1988 challenge in the huge 90-foot waterline boats, rather than the planned 1991 defence in traditional 12-metre yachts, or forfeit the cup.

Fay said that he had hoped to convince Sail America to allow other countries to join in the process to decide who would ultimately challenge the San Diego Yacht Club but was unsuccessful. "New Zealand is the challenger for the next America's Cup that will be held in 1988, not in 12 metres but in 90-foot waterline length vessels. That's all we've agreed to," Fay said.

Burnham maintained that Sail America planned to adhere to a strict interpretation of the rules which would exclude all countries but New Zealand from the challenge.

Dickson sails smoothly

Sydney — The Hong Kong team, with Chris Dickson, the former New Zealand America's Cup skipper, steering the winning yacht, Highland Fling, was the top scorer in a dramatic first race of the AWA Southern Cross Cup series yesterday (A Special Correspondent writes).

Highland Fling, a new Frers 50, won by 2min 27sec from the Frers 55 Jubilation (Jack James), of the United States team, with another US team yacht, Sidewinder (Randy Short), a Reichel/Pugh 44, third, another eight seconds behind.

With a tenth from Bimblegumbe and fourteenth

Zealand from the challenge. "San Diego Yacht Club will honour the deed which says 'no other challenge can be considered until the pending event has been decided,'" he said.

Fay, although frustrated by the hard line, was reluctant to threaten any further court action. "All we can do is put our opposition on the record," he said. "If we keep going to court our lawyers will cost more than our sails have." Fay said a suggestion by Burnham to withdraw their challenge was "not appropriate" and that "New Zealand will be pushing ahead full-steam for a challenge in September of 1988."

Asked about an announcement that a Canadian syndicate had paid their \$25,000 entry fee and expected to take part in the 1988 challenge, Burnham said: "We'd like to maximize the number of countries sailing in the America's Cup but right now we have been thwarted. With our sorrows, we'll send them back their cheque."

Michael Cornelsen, chairman of the Canadian syndicate, Force 12 North, said: "We don't agree with the turn of events which has taken us and 20 other challengers out of the 12 metres but if we intend to win we must be on the starting line in a 90-foot yacht. Simply put, if we lie back now, we lose."

ROWING: BOAT RACE CHAMPIONS BEGIN TRIALS WITH NEWCOMERS GIVING BLUES JOLT ON TIDEWAY



Needing a tonic: Gavin Stewart, Tony Ward, Christopher Penny and Richard Hall on Oxford's well-beaten Elwood boat (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Freshmen make bold Oxford campaign

By Jim Raiton

The Oxford University trial eights on the Tideway yesterday were named Jake and Elwood, but there were no comic capers from the Blues brothers, only serious competition and a classic Surrey bend victory. Elwood, on Middlesex, was thrashed by eight lengths over the Putney to Mortlake course, despite including four winning Blues on board.

Chris Penny, their American president who is also an Olympic silver medal winner, and Dominic Neary, the talented freshman junior international, Oxford yesterday produced seven of this year's winning Boat Race crew, but some will be struggling for a place in the Oxford crew next year in their defence of the Beefeater Trophy.

The trials were held on a slack tide with Elwood, stroked by Gavin Stewart, the heaviest and tallest Boat Race coxswain, on Middlesex, and Jake stroked by Michael Gaffney, the American freshman, on Surrey. Stewart set off at a furious lick and overhauling his opponents took half a length by the Mile Post. But against station advantage, it was obviously not enough. As the Surrey bend began to unfold, the cox and determined Gaffney, superbly backed by Jonathan

Searle, the freshman world gold medal winner, inched ahead and in three minutes shot under Hammersmith Bridge three lengths ahead.

This was spectacular, and with the Surrey bend beckoning, Jake had not only won the racing war but also the race. Stewart's crew looked heavy and plodded along, having shot their bolt. Jake, in absolute command, looked lively and displayed an impressive and long stride for a crew at this time of the year.

It was now painful to watch. Gaffney, from the United States Naval Academy, stroked his crew out to a four-length lead at Chiswick Steps, added two more

by Barnes Bridge, and with a final surge passed the finish with a good eight lengths to spare. The time of 19min 35sec was academic in the conditions, although the 21 seconds between the crews posed many questions for the Elwood crew.

The best engine-room coxswain on the river yesterday was Tom Cadoux-Hudson, the talented Blue and world medal winner, while Gaffney, Searle and Neary must surely find a place in the Oxford crew in May. So the message to Oxford's winning Blues is: look to your laurels for another seat in the Dark Blue boat. At least, that should be accepted without a

repeat of last year's wrangles.

JAKE N A Watkins (Liverpool College and New College), bow; C A Reed (St John's, Oxford University), stroke; M J Bennett (Oxford University), cox; T Cadoux-Hudson (Surrey and New College), 7; G. Searle (Surrey and New College), 8; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 9; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 10; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 11; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 12; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 13; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 14; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 15; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 16; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 17; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 18; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 19; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 20; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 21; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 22; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 23; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 24; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 25; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 26; J. Searle (Surrey and New College), 27; J. 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FOOTBALL

Rangers faced with prospect of lifting Iron Curtain again

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Another iron curtain lies across Rangers' path to the European Cup final. Twice they have lifted it, by knocking out the champions of the Soviet Union and Poland, and now they must do so again if Britain's sole representatives on the Continent are to reach the last four.

Rangers were drawn yesterday with Steaua Bucharest, the tie that Graeme Souness wanted most to avoid. The Romanians, who won the trophy last year by beating Barcelona on penalties, are likely to be substantially stronger than either the weary Dynamo Kiev or particularly the feeble Gorik Zabrze.

Souness played against Steaua's local rivals, Dynamo, during his last season at Liverpool and he recalls that the capital "is not one of the best places". His memories will probably convince him to follow his usual tight schedule and limit the visit to Bucharest to no more than 36 hours.

Three years ago he was accused by Dynamo of deliberately breaking Molvi's jaw in two places at Anfield. "When we went over there, a policeman made a gesture which suggested that my eye was going to be poked out," he recalled. "During the game, I was kicked all over the place."

He expects the forthcoming game to be an equal physical contest with the timing and location of the first leg offer some compensation. On March 2 Rangers will be away, which is considered a psychological advantage, and the prospect of their supporters causing trouble in Romania is less than minimal.

Souness, who intends to collect information on Steaua from Terry Venables, hopes that Butcher will be fit. The plaster encasing the central defender's broken leg is to be removed next month. Gough, who has been ineligible so far, and Wilkins will also strengthen his selection.

The Scots, who beat Steaua in the first round of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1969, have also been given a lavish incentive to repeat the triumph. Should they reach the semi-final, they will know that one of the giants overshadowing the tournament will have been eliminated.

Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, who between them have been crowned nine times the kings of Europe, are to collide in a replay of last season's thunderous semi-final.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, yesterday warned first division rivals against trying to lure his £1 million rated young players from Highbury. Graham believes he does not possess a single one of the players in the League Championship this season, but believes his team can mature into a major force in English football.

Speaking at a Sports Writers' Association lunch in London, Graham said: "Anyone trying to lure my players would be wasting their time. Most of our outstanding younger players are on long term contracts and there is no chance of their leaving."

Manchester take title in shoot-out. Manchester Grammar School yesterday won the Independent Schools six-a-side tournament at Aldenham, Lancashire, by beating the runner-up, St. Albans, 1-0 in a shoot-out after a 2-2 draw.

Wolverhampton Grammar School defeated Alton's to win the plate competition. Alton, who had beaten the Wolves 1-0 in the first round, were beaten 1-0 by Wolves in the final. Wolves scored first when Forest started well when Barnett put across a perfect pass which Akasi just shot wide, while at the other end Clark, the Wolves goalkeeper, was forced into a fine tip-over save. At half-time it was still anybody's game.

Manchester scored first when Tragen broke through, side-stepped the goalkeeper and placed the ball into an empty net. However, Forest came back in the last five minutes. Akasi first hitting the post, then scoring the equaliser after a perfect cross from Barnett.

Of the eight finalists Forest defeated Bolton, on penalties, and Brentford, 2-1, to reach the final. Manchester, who had beaten Wolves 1-0 in the first round, were beaten 1-0 by Wolves in the final. Wolves scored first when Forest started well when Barnett put across a perfect pass which Akasi just shot wide, while at the other end Clark, the Wolves goalkeeper, was forced into a fine tip-over save. At half-time it was still anybody's game.

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Quarter-final draws

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RUGBY UNION: IRISH PLAYER INJURED BY TERRORIST BOMB SHOWS HIS METTLE

Foul play claims denied by Waterloo

The difference of opinion between Roselyn Park and Waterloo reached a reasonably predictable conclusion yesterday when Waterloo issued a statement clearing their players of allegations of foul play (David Hands writes). The allegations arose after an injury to the Park flanker, Chris Maudslayi, during the semi-league game between the clubs on November 28.

Maudslayi's nose was broken during the game but it was subsequently suggested that he had suffered more severe facial injuries because of a blow to the face. The truth of that may be inferred by the fact that he played for the Park's second team last season, a fortnight after the initial incident.

"Certain allegations were levelled at players of the Waterloo club regarding foul play in the match," the club statement said. "The Waterloo club convened its appropriate sub-committee to investigate thoroughly the alleged incident and has been unable to find evidence of foul play by Waterloo."

"Despite press statements from the Roselyn Park club their letter was vaguely constructed. The statements made appear to be completely unsubstantiated and have made Waterloo's investigation more difficult. In the absence of any particular incident the Waterloo club cannot pursue this matter further but has expressed its disapproval of the conduct of the game and on their conduct in general on and off the field."

Park are calling a meeting to consider the contents of the Waterloo statement. Ironically Park's next game is in Liverpool, which was not at Waterloo — they play Liverpool-St Helens on Saturday hoping to maintain their unbeaten record in the second division.

All Black magic to be taught

There has been such an explosion of interest in the All Blacks of New Zealand as a rugby-playing nation that prospective players could be forgiven for thinking, as some of them do, that the Rugby Football Union staff are trying to turn them into All Black clones (David Hands writes).

Jimmy Davidson, Ireland's new coach, insisted at the start of the season that his players would not be asked to play like New Zealanders, that what he wanted was players who could play like British or Irish players. But the gap between New Zealand, Australia and France, and the rest of the world, is widening.

"One of the differences is fitness," Alan Rick, the English national administrator for London, said. "New Zealanders, at the top level, are accustomed to doing more than 100 miles of running a month, on their own, apart from normal training. When it comes to matches, these guys go through 80 miles without getting out of breath. The conditioning they get contributes towards their body hardness."

To this end the Rugby Football Union has invited Jim Hill, the All Blacks' fitness adviser, to lead a series of seminars in the four divisions. He will be at Twickenham on Saturday morning, Bath University on Sunday morning, Sarum Lane Sports Centre at Leicester on Monday morning and Carleton College, Leeds, on Tuesday evening.

Blair, from Glasgow, runs a successful sports health clinic in Auckland. "At the top level, in any game, players lack two things: space and time," he says. "The game is played in a series of limited time, as designed to increase player awareness and adaptability. He also brings a novelty to training which even makes an All Black smile."

Ahead of Cash. Sydney (Reuters) — Wayne Gardner, the world motor-cycling champion, has been named Australia's athlete of the year by the Confederation of Australian Sport, ahead of the Wimbledon tennis champion, Pat Cash.

TENNIS

Indian hopes fade as Edberg is passed fit. Gothenburg (AFP) — India go into the Davis Cup final against Sweden this weekend knowing only too well that all the odds are stacked against them. And the news that Sweden's world No. 2, Stefan Edberg, was passed fit, after a work-out on his ankle injury yesterday, deprived them of what might have seemed like a welcome boost.

Lars Petersson, the Swedish team doctor, said Edberg's right foot looked much better. "It's not swollen and the internal bleeding has stopped. The injury cannot get worse by practicing." However, Edberg might still opt to play only in the doubles.

Even so, form, rankings and even history point quite clearly to an overwhelming Swedish victory, and the added discomfort of the bitter, sub-zero temperatures and a specially constructed indoor red clay court at the Scandinavium may also serve to further diminish Indian. The best they can really hope for is to salvage some pride from the final and avoid a total whitewash.

SNOOKER

Martin's top break. David Martin, of Chesterfield, compiled a break of 124, the highest so far, in the third round of the English professional championship at Bristol yesterday. Martin defeated Jimmy Smith, of Barking, 6-5 and now meets Joe Johnson or Jason Smith when the event resumes at Ipswich in February.

Martin had a battle on his hands against Smith. He led 5-3, having made further breaks of 68, 54, 51, and 40. But Smith hit back, and breaks of 55 and 50 took their third-round match to the deciding, which Martin won 63-23.



Like father, like son: Gary Hartley follows his father, Mike, in playing for the Barbarians

Carr bravery given message of goodwill by Barbarians

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Gary Hartley, the Nottingham centre who has enhanced his reputation this season with some stylish displays for the Midlands division, is the only newcomer in the Barbarians XV to play Leicester in the annual Christmas match at Welford Road, on December 28.

Though Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, the Barbarians secretary, was unaware of it when he made the invitation, Hartley's father, Mike Hartley, played alongside him for Cambridge in the 1957 University match.

Hartley is joined by two other newcomers, Englishman Oliver Macfarlane, in a side notable for a clutch of Irish forwards, among them Nigel Carr, the Ards flanker who was injured in April by a terrorist car-bomb blast and, as a consequence, missed the opportunity of playing in the inaugural World Cup.

Carr, who has confirmed his eagerness to play, will receive a particularly warm welcome back since he has attracted admirers far beyond Ireland. He received facial, rib and abdominal injuries in the explosion and, though he attended a recent national squad training week-

end, admits there is some way to go before he recovers international match fitness.

"I'm back training with Ards," he told my colleague, George Ace, this month. "Some nights the training goes well and I feel no reaction. On other occasions my leg and my ankle let me know that I still have a bit to do."

But Carr has already proved himself a tenacious customer, having recovered from a serious knee injury which, at one stage, threatened his playing career before his international debut in 1985.

There is, incidentally, some mystery surrounding the final match of the Australian tour to England and Scotland next season. It has become traditional

for major touring sides to conclude against the Barbarians, usually at Cardiff. Since Wales are not involved in the tour the "13th match" — as it is being referred to — would probably be at Twickenham. I understand the Rugby Football Union are keen to have the Barbarians there.

But the match remains to be decided by the four Home Unions tour committee, which suggests that consideration is being given to a representative side other than the Barbarians, possibly with the thought in mind that 1989 is due to be a British Lions tour year.

The Australian tour includes international games against England (November 5) and Scotland (November 19) but details of the English section have not yet been finalized.

BARBARIANS v Leicester: J. Webb (Gloucester) and G. Ace (Leicester) will be in the starting line-up. Other players include G. Hartley (Nottingham), G. Windsor-Lewis (Cambridge), J. Carr (Ards), J. Macfarlane (Leicester), and J. Carr (Ards).

Barbarians will play Leicester at Welford Road on December 28. The match is part of the annual Christmas match. The Barbarians are a team of players from various clubs who are not playing for their own clubs.

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SHOW JUMPING

Turi gets a timely Olympics boost

By Jenny MacArthur

Joe Turi, the international rider, has received a timely boost to his Olympic build-up with the announcement at the Olympia championships yesterday of a £100,000 sponsorship over three years by Country Classics Ltd, manufacturers of equestrian equipment. The money, while not in the top league — Harvey Smith and his two sons recently signed a £500,000 three-year contract with Brook Street — represents a substantial commitment by a sponsor in the context of the sport.

Turi, still referred to as "the former Hingham trick rider," he defected to Britain in July 1973 by jumping off the back of the lorry taking the troupe back to Hungary — had recently been trying to persuade Michael Buhlman, owner of the horses, to sell one of his Kruger and Vital, his best animals.

"The amount of money they would fetch would make it worthwhile — we could start again with novice horses," Turi said. Fortunately, Buhlman sold a top horse three years ago and has regretted it ever since, would not sell. Only last month, while on the North American tour, he turned down an offer for Vital from a Canadian who invited him to name his price.

The sponsorship, Turi said yesterday, means he will stop thinking of selling and concentrate on his preparations for the Olympics — he acquired British nationality two years ago. It will also allow him to add to the six novice horses already at Bullman's Oxfordshire yard. Turi is hoping to find some suitable horses when he returns to Hungary next month to see his family.

Turi, aged 31, has made huge advances in the sport since he started riding the Dutch stallion Vital and the Irish-bred Kruger, who are both eight-year-olds.

It was at last summer's Hickstead Derby meeting that he impressed Gordon Laskmar, the managing director of Country Classics, by winning the opening class on Vital and then taking the Derby Trial on Kruger.

After further top performances at Wembley in October he was selected for the team for the highly-prized North American tour last month. In New York he produced the best British result in the Nations Cup on Vital, who in his two rounds went clear and set the fastest time. But it is a problem he is determined to remedy at Olympia this week, when he competes for his sponsor for the first time.

A single time fault is proving a recurring problem for Turi. It kept him out of the final line-up at the Liege grand prix and again at Wembley. But it is a problem he is determined to remedy at Olympia this week, when he competes for his sponsor for the first time.

The British show jumping team gained a narrow victory over the three-day event team in the Crosses & Blackwell Olympic Challenge, the opening competition in the championship, last night.

The winning team of Michael and John Whitaker, Nick Skelton, Malcolm Pirah and Anne Moore, the 1972 Olympic silver medal winner, all recorded clear rounds on the small, unchallenging course.

RESULTS: Crosses & Blackwell Olympic Challenge, 1. Showjumpers, 0 faults; 2. Three-day eventers, 4.

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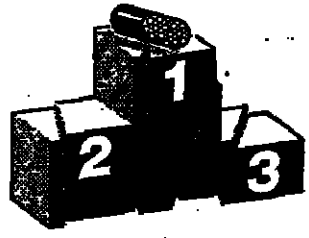
Inquiry set up by governing bodies

By John Goodbody

The British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) and the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) yesterday announced the setting-up of an independent inquiry by a Queen's Counsel into allegations made by *The Times* about malpractice in drug-testing at major meetings in recent years. The Queen's Counsel will be named in the New Year.

Tony Ward, the spokesman for the two governing bodies, said at the announcement in London: "Accusations have been made against three prominent officials and we need to know exactly what happened. We believe much of the evidence presented in the newspaper is incomplete, anecdotal and very historical."

He said that allegations against three officials — Robert Stinson, the treasurer of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Andy Norman, the promotions officer of the Board, and Les Jones, the secretary of the Northern Ireland AAA — would be the subject of



Legal action and were therefore not

The *Times* revealed that Nigel Cooper, who retired last month from his position as general secretary of the BAAB, in the wake of the board's effective take-over by the AAA in the restructuring of the sport, had accepted a last-minute demand by East German officials that drug tests would be waived in an international match at Crystal Palace on June 18 and 19, 1982.

In June 1983, the Board had another arrangement with a Soviet team for an international match in Birmingham. The Soviet athletes provided samples during competition as normal, but Cooper later handed them back to Soviet officials for them to be tested at a laboratory in Moscow.

Ward accepted yesterday that these two incidents took place. He said: "He took these actions unbeknown to his fellow senior officers at the time, and the BAAB is saddened that a senior officer of the board should have acted in this way. Nigel Cooper is, of course, no longer an employee of the BAAB."

Ward added that other senior officials finally got to know about the incidents "a few months ago". In the articles on Tuesday and Wednesday, *The Times* reported that at the 1985 European Indoor Games at Crystal Palace, Stinson gave nine Soviet athletes an assurance they would not be tested for drugs at the meeting. Stinson has issued a statement denying the allegation.

Norman is alleged to have subverted drug-testing at a major event by providing a competitor, Martin Garvan, who won two silver medals at the Commonwealth Games for throwing the hammer, with a sample of substituted urine. Garvan said Jones was present when Norman was making the arrangement.

Norman replied to the charge: "It's ridiculous. Garvan is a world one from years ago. It's a load of rubbish, it didn't happen."

When the episode was put to Jones, he said: "I'm absolutely flabbergasted, it's absolutely untrue. I can't even recall if I was at the meeting. I suppose I was. I go out of my way not to get involved in the testing, just in case anything like this happens."

In September, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, told *The Times* during his inquiry into drug-taking in sport that some British governing bodies had "made deals" to ensure that certain competitors would not be tested for drugs at important events. He said this had happened "regularly".

Asked whether he had any concrete evidence of malpractice, Moynihan said: "We took a considerable amount of evidence in confidence. There is no doubt at all that the answer to that is 'yes'."

The Minister said specific incidents had to be confidential, but added they came from people he respected. Asked whether athletics was one of the sports involved, he replied: "There have certainly been widespread rumours that this may have been going on."

Moynihan said these "deals" were the main reason why a completely independent testing programme is being set up by the Government in 1988.

Asked yesterday whether the Queen's Counsel can interview the Minister, Ward replied: "He will be able to call on anyone he wants."

Ward added that the results of the inquiry would be published "one way or the other. It is important to have the inquiry because the sport has been brought into disrepute. We believe the inquiry will be in everyone's interest."

END COLUMN

Putting official house in order

By Jack Bailey

The game goes on. The last Test match for a long time between England and Pakistan is under way. England's captain has been mollified by expressions of confidence and loyalty towards him and his team by the visiting TCCB representatives. The dust has settled on a feverish burst of public relations activity but at least a few cracks have been patched over; some wide ones remain.

What is needed in the weeks and months ahead is first of all a period of self-critical examination by the administrations of both countries. High on the agenda should be a searching look at their overall management structures and at their actions and reactions during the past few critical weeks.

Implicit in this are the responsibilities each bears for the game in its own country and, even more emphatically, for cricket throughout the world.

The International Cricket Conference (ICC) must, at its next meeting, have before it exhaustive reports from both countries. These should contain full explanations of the events relevant to the crisis in regard both to the present England tour and the Pakistan tour of England last summer.

Diplomacy via the back door

Just what action has been taken by the ICC chairman and secretary during the period involved is not readily apparent. Difficult as their position must be, by virtue of their need to be impartial, it is unlikely that there have been no attempts at back-door diplomacy. For one thing, the ICC lists among its functions responsibility for "rules of general application in Test matches, including the appointment of umpires".

These rules provide, *inter alia*, for the following measures to be taken in relation to all Test matches:

1. The home authority to appoint a committee for the purpose of nominating umpires to officiate in all Test matches.
2. As far as possible, for these umpires to stand in other matches so as to give the visiting captain an opportunity to judge them.
3. As long as possible before each Test match, the manager of the touring team to be informed of the choice of umpires for a particular Test match.
4. Any objection against either umpire to be lodged within three days of notice being received, or at least seven days before the match, if practicable.
5. If either captain raises what is considered by the relevant committee to be a definite and reasonable objection to any particular umpire, his wishes shall be met.
6. The sole authority for handling press enquiries to be the official representative appointed by the home authority.

The spirit as well as the letter

These provisions are not watertight and depend upon an approach which takes into account the spirit as well as the letter of the law. How much regard has been given to either, by the English and Pakistan authorities during the Constant controversy in England, or during the present series in Pakistan must be something for the ICC to ponder.

For example, the continuous appearance of Hashim Ahsan, the Pakistan chairman of selectors and manager, as spokesman on matters regarding the appointment of umpires in Pakistan, should cause a few eyebrows to hit the ceiling.

What cannot be gainsaid is the need for ICC to take stock and to act firmly and quickly and in unison. This does not mean the automatic appointment of neutral umpires or an International Board of Umpires. The overwhelming majority of Test-playing countries have been against such an idea and will show reluctance to adopt what on the surface may seem an obvious answer in the light of present problems.

There are a host of valid reasons for this, too numerous and varied, also, to go into here. One thing is certain: whatever rules are drawn up for the appointment of umpires in the future must be unequivocal and practicable. They must also apply universally and be capable of enforcement at the hands of the International Cricket Conference.

Emburey and Capel dig in for a footing

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Karachi

Only a partnership of 114 for the seventh wicket between Emburey and Capel enabled England to reach 222 for seven when the third Test match began here yesterday. And no one could blame the umpires this time for the batting specialists making so few runs between them. To give Pakistan their due, they bowled very decently. Qadir, in particular, but for a long time they met with little resistance.

Of "incidents" there were two, neither of them likely to rate a statement in Parliament. On noticing that Miandad at slip was moving a fielder after the bowler had begun his run-up, Gatting stopped play and drew his partner's attention to it. It will be remembered that it was for doing precisely the same thing that Gatting was accused by

Shakoor Rana of unfair play and all the trouble started at Faisalabad. Miandad cared not at all for having the finger pointed at him. Then, during the afternoon, Qadir got into an argument, conducted in Urdu, with a spectator, of which there were alarmingly few. I doubt whether they numbered 2,000. Qadir, it seemed, had been abused, though it can hardly have been for his bowling, which was a joy to watch. He is nothing if not volatile and in the end he had to be pulled away by Miandad, of all people, which was rather like being told to cool it by McEnroe. "I won't have bad words," said Qadir, who still bowled, with only a change of ends, from the sixteenth over at 11.20 until the new ball was taken at 4.30.

Had England been all out for not many more than 100, as seemed perfectly likely while Capel and Emburey struggled to get a footing, it really would have been quite inept. A couple of days ago these two were on the injured list, Capel with a knee and Emburey with a back. But each survived an early and confident appeal (Emburey for leg-before to Akram and Capel for a catch off bat and pad off Qasim) and Emburey went on to within five runs of his best Test score and Capel to equal his.

In the consistency with which he contributes in one way or another to England's cause, Emburey has much in common with Fred Trueman, his mentor in his early days at Lord's. Yesterday he took his Test batting average beyond 20 and to 34 since the start of the series against Australia last winter.

There is nothing the matter with the pitch. It had enough pace at the start for Ashraf Ali, keeping wicket for Pakistan, to stand a long way back and take the occasional ball shoulder high. When Qadir bowled, the batsmen once or twice found themselves having to dig the ball out. But I doubt whether the conditions were much different when, on the same ground, Hanif Mohammad made 499, first-class cricket's highest individual score.

Gooch was the first to go, reaching for an outswinger from Akram and being caught at the wicket. It was a wide, low catch, which required a



Failing to pull it off: Ashraf, the wicketkeeper, rejoices as Gatting is bowled by Qadir, who later hailed him as a great player

decision from the umpire, not on whether Gooch had played the ball but on whether it had carried to Ashraf. Mehboub Shah, at square leg, was called in and although he was standing a good 40 yards back at square leg he felt he had seen enough to give Gooch out. That was in the seventh over.

After 80 minutes, by when he had made seven, Broad was leg-before to Akram, thrusting his front leg at the ball but playing no stroke. By lunch Athey and Gatting had taken the score to 55 for two off 25 overs. Athey once driving Qadir over extra cover for the one juicy stroke of the morning. In the 40 minutes for which Qadir bowled before lunch he gave Athey no go. First ball afterwards he tried him with one and Athey failed to spot it. Making room

to force it through the covers, he lost his middle stump.

Three boundaries in quick succession by Gatting hinted at better things but at 72 Qadir bowled him, too. "A great player," Qadir says of Gatting, "but he tries to play too many strokes." This time he made to pull a ball that hurried on to him. Having survived some awkward moments against Qadir, Fairbrother was caught at short leg, trying to find a rising ball from Jaffer. This was good, honest bowling. When DeFreitas was bowled, trying to drive another Qadir goosy, England were 88 for six in the 36th over.

But Capel began slowly to fathom Qadir, or at any rate to look less like a canoist on the edge of the Victoria Falls, and Emburey was reassuringly dogged. Without them we

could have been looking at an earlier flight home. When Capel drove the last ball before tea, Qadir's first full toss, for four, England were 128 for six and Qadir had taken three for 25 in 20 overs.

With the appealing a little more restrained and the umpires a little less compliant than in the first two Tests, Emburey went sailing past his 50 with a straight drive for six off Qasim and the close was only seven overs away when he was well caught on the third man boundary, slashing at a short one from Jaffer, bowling with the new ball. It is not often, by the way, that an attack is opened by two left-armers, as Pakistan's was yesterday.

Having come in just after 1 p.m., Capel was still there at

5.10 when bad light stopped play during the final over. He had revived what had been until now a wretched series for him — no wickets, three runs from four innings and more than his share of doubtful decisions.

It was a lovely day and in the end not quite the disastrous one for England that had threatened. It lasted, what is more, for over six playing hours, even though the start was not until 10 a.m., which suggests that there is no good reason why Test days here and in India should last for only five and a half hours as against a minimum of six everywhere else. By pitching stumps at 9.30 they certainly could, and as a rule the hours need to be longer on the sub-continent, not shorter, for results to be achieved.

SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI

England won toss

ENGLAND			
First Innings			
G A Gooch c Ashraf b Akram	12	1	33
B C Broad lbw b Akram	7	1	89
C W J Athey b Qadir	26	4	87
M W Gatting b Qadir	19	3	57
N H Fairbrother c sub (Aali Mujtaba) b Jaffer	3	1	26
D J Capel not out	53	4	223
P A DeFreitas b Qadir	12	1	8
J E Emburey c Qadir b Jaffer	70	1	8
T B Nott not out	10	1	32
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 5)	11		
Total (7 wickets, 83.3 overs)	222		

N G B Cook and G R Dibley to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-41, 3-55, 4-72, 5-72, 6-85, 7-199.
BOWLING: Akram 21-4-82-2 (nb 2); Jaffer 21-6-50-2 (w 1, nb 3); Qadir 30.3-11-50-3; Qasim 10-2-38-0; Mudassar 1-1-0-0.

PAKISTAN

Mudassar Nazir, Ramiz Raja, Saleem Malik, Ijaz Miandad, Ijaz Ahmed, Asrar Malik, Wasim Akram, Ashraf Ali, Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim, Saleem Jaffer.
Umpires: Mehboub Shah and Khizar Hayat.

Fleck's arrival is relief for Bruce

The way opened for Steve Bruce to complete his £900,000 move to Manchester United last night as Norwich City paid a club record fee of £580,000 for Robert Fleck, the Rangers forward.

Dave Stringer, the acting Norwich manager, said: "I'm delighted Fleck is finally here. I always felt he could make things move for us again." Stringer intends that Fleck and John O'Neill, the defender he signed from Queens Park Rangers this week, will make their debuts at Wembley tomorrow night when Robbie Turner, the Bristol Rovers reserve forward, signed yesterday for £15,000 by Bobby Gould, the Wimbledon manager, will also make his debut.

Fleck, who scored three goals four times last season, said: "Playing in England has always been my ambition." Norwich refused to let Bruce leave Carrow Road until Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager, released Fleck. The Scottish champions now face Stearns Burech in the European Cup quarter-final with only McCoist to lead their attack as the European transfer deadline expired yesterday.

Plan to buy Wolves

A Midlands multi-millionaire wants to take over Wolverhampton Wanderers, of the fourth division, who have been council-owned for the last 18 months.

Richard Smith, a Hales-oven businessman and a lifelong supporter who once had trials at Molineux, has had preliminary talks with the chairman of Wolves, Dick Haden, and the director, Jack Harris.

A further meeting is

Maxwell pushed to the limit

Robert Maxwell last night threatened to sever all connections with football if his attempt to buy Watford is blocked by the Football League.

In a statement, the publisher said he would resign as chairman of Derby County, sell his shares in Reading and abandon his proposed purchase of Watford. His son, Kevin, he said, would resign as chairman of Oxford United.

Maxwell's claims came a day after the Football League management committee rejected his compromise deal with Philip Carter, the League president, under which he would sell his family interest

in Oxford and shares in Reading in return for the League's backing over his Watford deal.

However, with the League insisting he sell his interests in the three other clubs before his ECCC company could buy Watford, he said: "If the Football League clubs confirm the repudiation of the agreement which their president made with me, then I will give them their wish. I will sever all my connections with football."

"I will cease to be chairman of Derby County and dispose of my shares in Reading. My son, Kevin, who feels as strongly as I do about the disgraceful behaviour of those

SPORT IN BRIEF

Douglas in peace talks

Desmond Douglas and the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) seem to be closer to resolving their differences following the fine imposed on the European Tour Twelve champion for boycotting the national tour twelve event (Richard Eaton writes).

After seeking legal advice, Douglas asked to be released from his contract with the ETTA, which the Association is apparently prepared to grant. It is, however, subject to conditions with which the player is not happy, so the correspondence is continuing. However, Douglas wants to continue employment with the Association on a day-to-day "unit" basis.

Bolton saved

Bolton and Barry Basketball Club has been saved from closure after a £12,000 donation from an anonymous sponsor.

Brazilian tour

Wellington (Reuters) — Brazil, three times winners of the World Cup, will make a two-match tour of New Zealand in July. This will mark the first visit to New Zealand by a South American national football team. They will play matches here and in Auckland. In February, the Brazilian under-21 side, which won this year's Pan American Cup, will make a four-match tour of New Zealand.

Job for Wells

Sussex have appointed the all-rounder, Colin Wells as their vice-captain for 1988. Wells nearly left Sussex last season, starting a players' revolt that ended in the dismissal of the chief coach, Stewart Storey.

Prize bonus

The winner of next year's Paris indoor tennis tournament, which already offers a total prize of more than \$1 million (about £566,450), will be paid a \$100,000 bonus.

Hackney out

Hackney are to leave the British League, the country's top speedway competition. The east London club has applied to rejoin the lower-ranked National League next season. Glasgow Tigers have been readmitted to the league after reaching agreement to ride at Shawfield Stadium in Glasgow.

Oldham plc

Oldham Rugby League Club, the John Player Trophy semi-finalist, has dropped a scheme to form a private limited company and hopes to go public to raise £500,000 from the sale of shares.

Favourites

Chi Chi Rodriguez, of Puerto Rico, and Ayako Okamoto, of Japan, are the favourites to win the senior Professional Golfers Association and Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament, which starts in Jamaica tomorrow.

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